Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-129
Friday
7 July 1989

Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-89-129 *7 July 1989*

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Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman Reacts to Likud Vote on Shamir Plan

JN0607135889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] In Tunis, PLO Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman has stressed the risks jeopardizing peace and the efforts being made to achieve it after the Likud vote on the Shamir plan and affirmed that the intifadah [uprising], which has been continuing for 19 months in the occupied Palestinian territories, will witness a new escalation, as this is the only response to the Israeli intransigence.

'Abd-al-Rahman added that the Palestinian leadership will meet during the coming few days to delineate its position after Shamir's decisions. He went on to say that the Palestinian leadership will also ask the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures for calling for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference as Shamir, according to the Palestinian spokesman, has frozen the only U.S. initiative that enjoyed Soviet support.

Abu-Sharif Interviewed

JN0607193889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, by news director Antoine Nawfal on 6 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Bassam Abu-Sharif, you are welcome.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

[Nawfal] The hard-line viewpoint in the Likud has triumphed in the end. The Shamir plan on elections in the occupied territory was adopted, but after many amendments were introduced to it. What is the significance of this after months of continuous work, Palestinian-American contacts, and the PLO's frank position on Israel's existence and the recognition of Israel? Has everything ended?

[Abu-Sharif] I believe that what took place exposed the reality and essence of the plan of Shamir, who tried to gain time through playing around it without creating any illusion on the nonexistence of a desire in the Shamir government to establish peace. Peace does not suit that government because peace does not suit its expansionist policy aimed at annexing the West Bank and Gaza.

However, the decision adopted by the Likud Central Committee yesterday does not place us at an impasse. We continue our resistance of the occupation, regardless of the sacrifices. We will escalate this resistance until the last soldier leaves. This decision places parties [words indisinct] or which procrastinated. Now, the issue is clear, and it is the responsibility of the Security Council, its permanent members, specifically the United States.

[Nawfal] How do you expect the American position to develop in the coming days and weeks?

[Abu-Sharif] We hope that the U.S. officials will abide by and respect what they announced before President Husni Mubarak and Shamir in the White House garden—the minimum of which is ending the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. The PLO has presented all that could facilitate the peace process and establish it on fair bases. The PLO agreed on conducting free and democratic elections provided that these elections would result in ending the occupation and granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination, like the rest of the peoples in the world who were under occupation and seized their independence.

We now clearly see that the ruling Likud and the ruling coalition, which abides by the Likud policy, is laying down a policy that deals a blow not only to the peace process, but also to all those who try to remove the occupation. This is a declaration on the intention of this (?group) to annex the West Bank and Gaza. We now hold the United States responsible for responding to this. I believe the overall regional developments will be based on this response. This is because the American response will prove that either the U.S. Administration really wants peace and wants to embark on a fair and logic dealing or it is completely biased toward the Israeli Government regardless of the Israeli Government's position.

[Nawfal] There are continuous contacts between you and the American side despite what happened...

[Abu-Sharif, interrupting] Yes, the contacts are continuous. We hope that this dialogue will develop—after the picture has become clear—faster. This dialogue should clarify outright the American stand on the Palestinian people, on the peaceful initiative of President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], and on the rights of the Palestinian people.

[Nawfal] How do contacts with the Americans take place now?

[Abu-Sharif] There is a vitally important channel, and that is Ambassador Pelletreau, who represents President Bush and Secretary Baker and who represents the U.S. Administration.

[Nawfal] Are you going to have meetings with him in the coming few hours?

[Abu-Sharif] A contact was held with him immediately after the decisions of the Likud Central Committee were announced. There will be another contact with him with a view to learning the American position on this development. The contacts will be pursued. We now expect

the U.S. Administration to upgrade the level of its contacts with the PLO and make a clear-cut commitment to working toward implementing President Bush's statement on ending the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. We now hope the U.S. Administration will recognize Palestinian sel-determination and commit itslef to its implementation and [words indistinct] led by the Soviet Union.

[Nawfal] Some, even within the Palestinian camp, are wondering: Why all these concessions made by 'Arafat as long as this is what they have led to?

[Abu-Sharif] Peace is dear, maybe even more dear than the cost of war. President Abu 'Ammar has set an example for the whole world. As a leader of the PLO and the Palestinian people, he gave the message that he was offering peace, not from a position of weakness but on the strength of the enormous power of the Palestinian people made by the intifadah. This peace offer is to safeguard our next generations and those of the Israelis and the world at large, as well as to ward off catastrophe in the Middle East and around the world. Our president therefore deserves the description a hero of peace, just as he is the hero of the fight for freedom.

[Nawfal] Is this to say that the PLO, for all what has happened, will stick to its commitments and international undertakings?

[Ab-Sharif] We will stick by our commitments through our initiative. In the meantime, we will continue as we have pledged to put up resistance to Israeli occupation until it is ended. We will not be bullied by Shamir's big stick or the obsolete and thick political ideas that have been endorsed by the Likud. We shall not be deterred. We shall continue resistance. Nay, we will step up the resistance until Shamir learns that it is not possible to address a new vital situation in our world with old, long-dead ideas.

[Nawfal] The political changes inside Israel coincided with the death of an Israeli bus driver between Jeruslaem and Tel Aviv that led to the vehicle careering down a ravine and the killing of a large number of passengers. Are these political changes and the incident related?

[Abu-Sharif] Shamir's terrorist escalation that preceded and coincided with the Likud Central Committee meeting and continued thereafter, coupled with detentions that began in Ramallah and extended to Jerusalem and Nabulus and are continuing, as Shamir said, in order to round up the generals of the intifadah, are bound to have repercussions. Those whose family and children are killed right before their eyes will naturally react as any normal human being would.

[Nawfal] Don't you fear that you will be accused once more of reverting to terror?

[Abu-Sharif] This is not terror. Shamir and his government are the terrorists. The terrorists are the Israeli soldiers who kill children every day. Those defending their rights and resisting occupation are not terrorists. Otherwise, George Washington and Charles de Gaulle and whoever has stood up to occupation would have been terrorists.

[Nawfal] A condition that Likud set for holding elelctions in the occupied land is a cessation of the intifadah. Where does the intifadah go from here in light of the new development, and will it carry on the way it has been happening, or will it take new forms?

[Abu-Sharif] The intifadah will only stop on one condition, and that is a total evacuation of our Palestinian land by Israeli occupation forces.

[Nawfal] Is this the only condition?

[Abu-Sharif] That's right. When they pull out from our land there will no longer be any need for the intifadah. The intifadah is a resistance movement that was brought about by the occupation of our land and nothing else.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Bassam Abu-Sharif.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

PLO's Bal'awi Denies 'Arafat-Pelletreau Meetings

JN0607195789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1825 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia, Brother Hakam Bal'awi, has denied the reports attributed by the Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM to Palestinian sources to the effect that two meetings were held between leader President brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau.

Brother Hakam Bal'awi added: With all due respect to news media and to the aforementioned newspaper, the reports published on the issue are not correct. I would like to affirm that no meetings were held between the U.S. ambassador and leader President brother Abu-'Ammar.

Fatah, DFLP 'Joint Political Statement' Issued

JN0607193089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1624 GMT 6 Jul 89

["Text" of "joint political statement" issued by Fatah movement and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine "following a meeting held on 3 July"—place not given]

[Text] The commands of Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] held a meeting on the evening of 3 July 1989. Attending the

meeting were Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine; Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general; as well as Brothers Abu-Iyad, Abu-al-Lutf, Abu-al-Hawl [Salah Khalaf, Faruq Qaddumi, and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, respectively], and Hani al-Hasan from Fatah command; and Comrades Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, DFLP assistant secretary general, and Mamduh Nawfal, DFLP political bureau member.

Discussions focused on the situation inside the occupied homeland, where the valiant intifadah [uprising] is escalating against the feverish stepping up of Zionist terrorism. The conferees also discussed developments pertaining to the Palestinian situation. They reviewed the development of bilateral relations since the two leaders' meeting of last April. The following was emphasized:

1. The conferees expressed pride in the continuation of our people's heroic struggle within the intifadah on the soil of the state of Palestine which has been going on for approximately 20 months. They paid tribute to the brave steadfastness and firm national unity with which our people confronted all forms of repression and terrorism exercised by the Zionist occupation army and herds of settlers.

The conferees voiced the confidence of the leadership of the PLO and the revolution in the steadfastness of the Palestinian women, young men and women, children, and elderly in the face of the new wave of terrorism being launched by the occupation army and in their ability to abort the political obectives of this terrorist wave. The conferees remarked on the high militant preparedness of our entire people with all their factions and nationalist forces. They praised the role of the United National Leadership and field leaders. They also praised the unified frameworks encompassing local leaderships, popular committees, and strike squads. They remarked with satisfaction on the development of the experience of setting up higher councils of various popular sectors.

Fatah and the DFLP emphasize their great eagerness to consolidate and promote our people's national unity in the occupied homeland, represented by the cohesion of all nationalist forces, sectors, and bodies in struggle against the occupation. They also stressed interest in securing all forms of political protection for the intifadah and providing every possible support to consolidate our people's steadfastness in the face of campaigns of massacres, blockades, starvation, and deportations. They also expressed concern about supporting and strengthening the intifadah frameworks to continue their vanguard role in the national war of liberation to defeat the occupation and hoist the flag of the state of Palestine over the soil of the homeland.

2. The conferees reasserted the PLO's position on the Shamir plan, given that it contradicts international legitimacy and ignores the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. The conferees indicated that these fake plans reflect the ruling Zionist institution's insistence on its old-fashioned policy of expansion and war. They also constitute a desperate attempt to confront the momentum of the Palestinian political and diplomatic move launched by the Palestinian peace initiative.

The conferees affirmed the PLO's adherence to its political initiative and concern about reaching a comprehensive solution to the conflict within the framework of an international conference on the basis of balanced interests for all sides.

The conferees praised the positive and balanced stand adopted by the EC in the Madrid declaration.

3. The conferees stressed eagerness to activate and bolster Arab solidarity in the service of the supreme Arab interests and to secure the largest possible support for our people's struggle and their valiant intifadah. The conferees hoped that the Casablanca summit resolutions will be implemented as soon as possible, including the formation of the six-member Arab committee for supporting the intifadah and expediting the convocation of the five-member meeting comprising the Arab sides to take part in an international conference.

4. The conferees discussed what has been achieved in the field of promoting relations between Fatah and the DFLP in accordance with the joint statement issued last April. The conferees expressed satisfaction with what has been achieved in the political and organizational spheres, especially inside the occupied homeland and within the frameworks of the intifadah and in Palestinian organizations and popular unions.

Fatah Lauds 'Martyrdom' of Israeli Bus Attack

NC0707062989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Fatah-the Revolutionary Council has lauded the heroic martyrdom operation carried out on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem bus. In a statement distributed in Beirut, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council said that this heroic operation is a living method of struggle that expresses the will of our people and a creative fulfillment of the will to escalate the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy.

PLO Officials React

JN0707071489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The PLO held the Israeli political leaders responsible for the bus incident because of their refusal to shoulder any responsibility toward the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. Stating this, PLO Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman added that this incident proves beyond doubt the need for international intervention to end the Israeli persecution.

Commenting on the incident, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif said it was the human reaction of a man whose children were being killed, who had seen families displaced and houses demolished. This is certainly due to Shamir's policy. Abu-Sharif warned that if Shamir continues the policy of violence, the time will come when the situation will be difficult to control. After conveying his condolences to the families of the victims, terming the incident tragic, Abu-Sharif stressed that the big powers and the Security Council should adopt urgent measures to put an end to what is taking place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and embark on the peace process. He appealed to U.S. President George Bush to adopt the necessary bold decisions and tell the Israelis, as his predecessor Eisenhower told them when they were occupying Sinai in 1956: Enough, put an end to occupation because this will bring peace.

'Arafat Sends Condolences on Gromyko's Death

JN0707075289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has sent a cable of condolences to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and CPSU general secretary, on the death of former Soviet President Comrade Andrey Gromyko. Following is the text:

Your Excellency brother President Comrade Gorbachev: Revolutionary greetings. The Palestinian people and I received with deep sorrow and pain news about the death of Comrade Andrey Gromyko, former president of the friendly USSR. In the name of our Palestinian people, the PLO, and in my own name, I extend to you, the friendly CPSU, and the Soviet peoples my sincere heartfelt condolences and warm sympathy.

Comrade Andrey Gromyko was a righteous son of the Soviet Union who dedicated his life for the victory of socialism and for defending the Soviet Union. So greatly he represented his country at all levels that he won the respect and appreciation of all those who knew him and worked with him and made many friends to your friendly country. He was an honest defender of the principles of internationalism of supporting peoples' struggle for their freedom and independence. Our Palestinian people will always remember him as a faithful friend who defended the justice of their cause and worked toward resolving the conflict by peaceful means.

Please accept my deepest condolences, and I hope you will convey to your struggling party, the peoples of the Soviet Union, and the noble family of the deceased, our heartfelt sympathy. The Palestinian people and their revolutionaries and strugglers will not forget Comrade Gromyko's support for the Palestinian people and their just cause during the most difficult times. Please accept our deepest condolences. It is a revolution until victory.

Khalaf on Impasse in U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue

JN0707073689 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 Jul 89 pp 1, 13

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, has said that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is facing an impasse due to differences over the Israeli elections plan for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN, Abu-Iyad added that in spite of this, the PLO is concerned that the dialogue continue since it is a Palestinian doorway through which pressure can be exerted on Washington, which, in turn, can pressure and influence Israel.

But, Abu-Iyad said, the U.S. decision to pressure Israel will depend on the Arab sides' ability to influence Washington. He pointed out that the Palestinians themselves have only the intifadah [uprising] as a means to reach their rights.

The Palestinian officials accused the U.S. Administration of aiming, through procrastination, to make the world public opinion become accustomed to the intifadah and view it as a routine rather than a major event. However, the Israeli oppressive measures against it have ensured maximum media attention for the intifadah, he added.

The Palestinian leader noted a slowness in the U.S. Administration's treatment of the Middle East question. He explained that time is short and does not allow for this delay and that there must be a better understanding of the region's circumstances, particularly those related to the intifadah.

'Arafat's Delayed Arrival in Hanoi Explained

JN0607103189 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 4 Jul 89 p 1

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab has revealed the real reasons behind the 20-hour delay in President Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi, last week. At that time, news agencies termed that delay as the disappearance of the Palestinian president's airplane.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', Al-Najjab, who was among the Palestinian delegation, explained that the PRC authorities' refusal to allow the private plane carrying the Palestinian delegation from Beijing, where it stopped for refueling on its way from the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, has caused this unexpected delay.

He explained that the North Korean authorities pointed out that the airplane can reach Hanoi via Beijing through three air corridors: Either through Hong Kong, through

Burma, or through a third and nearer air corridor over a military area on PRC-Vietnamese borders. The Vietnamese authorities allowed the airplane to cross through this corridor but the PRC authorities—the technical authorities—unequivocally refused to allow it.

Al-Najjab added that the PRC deputy foreign minister received the Palestinian delegation at the airport, and that the PRC authorities insisted on hosting 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation in one of the luxurious palaces until the time for the airplane to take off through the Hong Kong corridor.

The PLO Executive Committee member pointed out that the news circulated after the airplane failed to arrive on its scheduled time to Hanoi confirm the need to take better security measures. The event shows to what extent certain foreign countries' intelligence organs closely follow the Palestinian leaders' movements.

PRC Said Not Responsible

JN0607165489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 5 Jul 89 p 30

[Text] Tunis—AL-ANBA'—PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab has stated that the main reason for the delayed arrival of the plane of President Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation in Hanoi is the delayed arrival of the laissez-passer from the neighborly countries. He said that the PRC authorities had nothing to do with this delay.

Some news agencies explained al-Najjab's statement to AL-ANBA' yesterday in a way holding Beijing responsible for the delay.

Tunisia Reportedly Agrees To Host Fatah Congress

JN0707090889 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the preparatory committee for the congress of the Palestine National Liberation Movement—Fatah—has decided to convene the movement's fifth congress in Tunis on 23 July 1989.

A senior Palestinian source told AL-ITTIHAD that 2 days ago, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali informed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat of his country's approval to host the congress, which will be attended by about 1,000 members, half of whom are military.

The source added that during the congress, members of Fatah Central Committee will be elected individually and not within a slate as was the case during the fourth congress, held in Damascus in 1981, and that the election process will not apply to the Movement's founding members.

Jibril Addresses Rally on Operation Anniversary

JN0107132989 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1027 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Our correspondent in the Syrian capital has reported that Fatah-The Uprising movement held a grand popular rally on the passage of 40 days since the Bayt Awla operation and the martyrdom of three heroes of that heroic operation. The rally was held at 1800 on Thursday, 29 June 1989, at the al-Nujum cinema in al-Yarmuk camp near Damascus. The rally was attended by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]; Brother Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the provisional command of Fatah-The Uprising movement; Brother Colonel Abu-Khalid al-'Amlah, deputy secretary of the provisional command of Fatah-The Uprising movement; Brother Sa'id Sayf, member of the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Bahrain; a large number of representatives of Arab and world liberation movements; some socialist bloc ambassadors in Damascus; and a huge crowd of Palestinian and Syrian Arab brothers.

The rally began by observing a 1-minute silence in honor of the martyrs of the Palestinian revolution and the Arab nation.

Ahmad Jibril delivered a speech on behalf of the PFLP-GC, in which he said: We meet today at a Palestinian and Arab festival. Forty days ago, three young men wanted to tell the deviationist Palestinian leaders that the willpower of the Palestinian people is not dictated by the Americans and those deviationists but by the Palestinian heroes in Bayt Awla and on the soil of Palestine. The three hero martyrs of the Bayt Awla heroic operation said: Our blood is shed in continuation of the course of the martyrs of Fu'ad Hijazi, Muhammad Jamjum, 'Izz-al-din al-Qassam, 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Husayni, and all this nation's martyrs. They had no company except their faith in God and their homeland. They told the enemy: Here we are in the heart of death. Here the account will be settled. They said: This soil is Palestinian and belongs to the Palestinian people. They told those renegades in Tunis and flying their planes throughout the world: The borders of Palestine are not defined by a resolution in Algiers or Rabat. The land of Palestine extends from the sea to the river, from al-Naqurah to Rafah, it is the land of the Arab nation, the land of the Palestinian people. However, those renegades have not yet learned from history.

Addressing brothers in Fatah-The Uprising movement, Ahmad Jibril said: You represent the real revolutionary elite that has maintained Fatah's charter and principles. He added: We can in no way accept the forging of the history of the Palestinian people and Arab nation by those renegades. He said: 'Arafat presented French President Mitterrand with a gift to be able to sit and talk with him. This gift was the cancellation of the Palestine National Charter, denunciation of the Nazi massacres of Jews, and consideration of the Jewish victims as victims of humanity.

Jibril wondered: Are those deviationists unable to see our Palestinian Arab people, who have been offering daily sacrifices for 40 years? 'Arafat says: I congratulate the Jewish people on Yom Kippur. Is this the leadership of the Palestinian revolution? Do these people belong to the blood of martyrs and to this nation's history? I say and swear that they, in collusion with the Zionists and Americans, are conspiring daily against our heroic people's intifadah [uprising] in our land Palestine.

Concluding his speech, PFLP-GC Secretary General Jibril said: We all must know and aim at our targets without beating about the bush, without fear or reluctance. A struggler and a man is killed only once. Never bow with the pretext that the storm is strong. Life is dignity. Let us bravely confront our enemy, who understands nothing but combat, struggle, and bloodshed. When it feels that it is paying blood every day, it will tremble, offer concessions, and retreat. That will be the beginning of our victory toward defeating it and expelling it from our land. [passage omitted]

Libya's Jallud Meets PNSF Figures 1 Jul

JN0107181889 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Our Damascus correspondent reports that Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud [member of the 1 September Revolution in Libya] met in Damascus today with the command of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF]. The meeting was attended by Dr Talal Naji, Fadl Shururu, Khalid al-Fahum, Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Abu-Khalid al-'Amlah, 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, 'Abd-al-Karim 'Umar, 'Abd-al-Majid Hannun, Muhammad Khalifah, 'Arabi 'Awwad, and Sami Qandil.

They talked about Arab and Palestinian political developments. Major Jallud apprized the glorious intifadah [uprising] in Palestine and the considerable sacrifices made by our heroic people and martyrs, who are hammering out the future and liberation of Arab Palestine.

Trilateral Meeting Held

JN0307171789 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] A trilateral meeting was held today at the office of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. In addition to Mr Khaddam, the meeting was attended by Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan 1 September Revolution, and the leadership of the Palestine National Salvation Front.

Meets Popular Front Group

JN0307172489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] A meeting was held this morning between Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan 1 September Revolution, and a delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command comprising its Secretary General Ahmad Jibril, Assistant Secretary General Talal Naji, and Political Bureau Secretary Fadl Shururu. The meeting was held at Jallud's place of residence [in Damascus].

Fatah Envoy Appeals to UN on Israeli 'Massacres'

NC2506175589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative and PLO charge d'affaires in Cairo, appealed today to the international community to act swiftly to stop the massacres carried out by the Israeli occupation troops against the innocent Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, al-Qidrah emphasized that the purpose of the recent changes in the Israeli military command is to ensure that more massacres are committed in a desperate attempt to abort the Palestinian popular intifadah [uprising]. However, al-Qidrah added, the Israeli attempts will neither succeed in wiping out the intifadah nor prevent the Palestinian people from rejecting the occupation. He pointed out that the number of martyrs has risen to 815, in addition to more than 40,000 injured, including 6,000 who have been disabled. In addition, there are 50,000 detainees, he stated.

Al-Qidrah urged the United Nations and the humanitarian organizations of the world to take a firm stand to protect the innocent civilians in the occupied territories and to stop the acts of repression and terrorism and the bloody massacres which the Israeli occupation troops are carrying out against women, children, and the elderly.

Abu-Iyad Views Soviet Mideast Peace Efforts

PM3006132289 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 23 Jun 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Iyad Tells AL-MADINAH: Soviet Move For Palestinian Cause"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-MADINAH bureau—[FATAH Central Committee member] Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) has emphasized that Soviet diplomacy under Mikhail Gorbachev is active and maintaining major dynamism toward settling the Palestinian problem.

In a statement to AL-MADINAH Abu-Iyad said that the Soviets promised the PLO that it will discuss the question of issuing a Soviet-U.S. statement on the Palestinian problem at the next meeting of the Soviet-U.S. experts committee.

AL-MADINAH has learned from Palestinian sources in Tunis that extensive Egyptian-Palestinian contacts are being conducted with a view to boosting efforts toward issuing a Soviet-U.S. declaration on the Palestinian problem.

The source pointed out that the PLO raised the idea during the third round of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, held recently in Tunis. The U.S. response was that it preferred to discuss the issue with the Soviets.

The Palestinian source said that the PLO proposes that the declaration contain a number of political principles for settling the problem, the most noteworthy of which are as follows: to regard Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for a settlement; to urge the convening of the international conference; the land-for-peace principle; and to replace the principle of the Palestinians' political rights with that of their right to self-determination.

The source denied recent reports of the possibility of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue being moved from Tunis to Cairo.

Meanwhile, Karen Brutents, an official of the CPSU Central Committee Foreign Affairs Department, considered that the PLO has taken a major step toward achieving true peace and that it is now Israel's turn to exert further efforts in that direction. Brutents, who is attending as an observer the socialist international conference in Stockholm, said that he met with the Israeli finance minister and Labor Party leader during the conference.

ICRC Condemns Deportation of Palestinians

NC3006173989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] According to a statement issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], the eight Palestinian deported to Lebanon from the West Bank and Gaza Strip arrived at the ICRC office in Ksarah today. The number of deportees [since December 1987] has thus reached 56.

The ICRC statement said this deportation is in violation of Article 49 of the third Geneva Convention. The statement expressed regret at this deportation, which occurred only few days after a visit by the ICRC chairman to Israel. During his visit, the ICRC chairman informed high-ranking officials that the ICRC considers the deportation of the Palestinians to be against the Geneva Conventions.

The eight Palestinians stated today that they had asked the ICRC to request the Israeli authorities to return their identification papers which they had seized from them.

DFLP Halts Talks on Corporal's Release

NC3006123189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has emphasized that Israel's deportation of Palestinians will not intimidate the Palestinian people. The spokesman said that the DFLP Political Bureau has halted the negotiations taking place through mediators for handing over Israeli Corporal Samir As'ad as its first reaction to the deportations.

CSSR Daily Interviews PLO Official

LD3105143689

[Editorial Report] Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 30 May on page 6 carries a 1,000-word interview with Abu Mazin [nom de guerre of Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, by RUDE PRAVO "collaborator" Jaroslav Matejka entitled "Scenes of Fire, Ruins, and Hopes." The interview, which was made during Abu Mazin's "recent visit to Czechoslovakia", deals with the Palestinian uprising on the occupied territories, the "intifadah," and its impact.

Speaking about the impact on the Palestinian population, Mazin points out that the "intifadah" has "become a way of life for Palestinians" and has brought about their "absolute unity." He says that, despite the efforts of the United States and Israel to find some other partner for negotiations, all Palestinians, those on occupied territories as well as those living in exile, now want to be represented in their struggle by the PLO. He expresses his conviction that the United States and Israel will not succeed in their search for a "more pliant" Palestinian partner.

Speaking about the effect on Israel, Mazin says that the "intifadah is crushing Israeli society," has speeded up the polarization of forces in Israel, has deprived the Israeli army of its "halo of invincibility," and has strongly affected the Jewish community all over the world. Many Jews fear, he says, that "Israel will lose the face of a democratic society."

Referring to international aspects, Mazin points out that the "intifadah" has "changed the balance of forces in the whole region" and has made "many members of West European governments begin to change their views" and to support a solution "which would satisfy all parties involved." Mazin also describes as "very positive" the establishment of dialogue between the PLO and the United States.

Asked about conditions on the occupied territories, Mazin says that more than 30,000 Palestinians are in Israeli "concentration camps," that over 600 of them have been killed and thousands wounded and crippled, and that there have been over 1,000 miscarriages among Palestinian women resulting from the use of "banned chemical weapons and grenades with tear gas." Thousands of Palestinian houses have been destroyed, he goes on to say, hundreds of orchards have been plundered, and thousands of trees uprooted so that they cannot bear fruit. Mazin also denounces the closure of schools on the occupied territories, saying that denying to the Palestinians the right to education is "one of the most flagrant and shocking manifestations of the violation of human

rights." Mazin emphasizes that "all these brutal manifestations of power have not stopped and cannot stop the people of Palestine in their just struggle."

New Palestinian Weekly Published in Cyprus
JN2406151289 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Jun 89 p 23

[Text] We have received the first issue of the newspaper AL-ISTIQLAL [INDEPENDENCE], which is a weekly independent political newspaper published in Cyprus. Its editor in chief is our colleague Lu'ay 'Abduh. The newspaper is particularly concerned about Palestinian affairs both inside and outside [the occupied territories]. It contains 16 pages.

The newspaper's editorial states: "We affirm to the new Palestinian generations that we seek to create a political knowledge of the events taking place in the Israeli arena and the Palestinian arena in the occupied homeland."

We wish AL-ISTIQLAL success in its mission.

The newspaper publishes an interview with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, in which he says: "Elections only after Israeli troop withdrawal and under international supervision."

Algeria

New Law Issued on Political Freedom 5 Jul

LD0607101789 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] A prominent event coincides with the commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the recovery of national sovereignty. The event consists in the president of the republic today issuing the law related to associations which have a political character which was ratified by the National People's Assembly on 2 July. Here follows the text of this law read by colleague Ahmed Ibrahim. Over to you.

[Ibrahim] It is now possible for all citizens to meet in order to exercise a political viewpoint, whatever their views, on condition that they respect others' freedom of expression and discussion of political ideas and programs. In one word, they should not go beyond the limits set aside by the law itself.

This means, first, that the conditions are now so that an era of peaceful and democratic confrontation opens between the various tendencies. Violent and undemocratic ways in defending acquired ideas and stands should be banned. The law also inaugurates a decisive period which will be characterized by the transparency of methods and practices in order to occupy all levels of political responsibilities, to preserve them, and to hand them over. In future, the exercise and handing over of political power will only be possible by elections.

From this premise, citizens will have to defend their interests by mobilizing in order to foil any tampering with the apparatus. Their active participation in political life will bar the way to those groups which might want to change or take away their free choice and put them under political tutelage by way of demagoguery and promises for electoral purposes.

The citizens will know how to show their attachment to programs and stands which meet their ambitions. Now that the widest legal ways are open to all for expression and the necessary independence and neutrality of the judiciary are consecrated in order to make its activity and decision credible, it will be possible for Algerians, through an intensive, varied, and responsible expression, to secure a strict respect of the rules of the game by the institutions and the citizen.

Egypt

Commentary Views Results of Likud Meeting

NC0607203889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary from the "Talking Newspaper" program]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. When Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced his election plan, we said right from the start that it was merely a political ploy to divert the international trend away from the resolution of the Middle East crisis within the framework of an international peace conference, which is the right course.

All the Arab countries, with the PLO foremost among them, have stressed that no one rejects the notion of elections in principle but that the formula proposed by Shamir adds nothing new to the international peace efforts and that the aim of Shamir's plan is to seize the opportunity to strike at the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising]. The Arabs' opposition to Shamir's plan was not mere words, or a rejection for the sake of rejection, or an attempt to make things impossible. The Arab forces, led by Egypt and the PLO, raised a number of questions that needed a clear Israeli answer so that everyone would know where he stood right from the start. The Israeli Government, however, did not answer any of these questions and did not provide any clarification on the election issue. Instead, we heard of a clamor within the Likud bloc that spoke of divisions among the bloc's wings, with Shamir being accused of turning into a peace dove because of his election plan. The troika—Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i—said that Shamir's plan endangers Israel's security, existence, and stability.

Following an overt debate and fiery statements by these wings, the Likud bloc's Central Committee held a special meeting. Shamir delivered a political speech in which he agreed to introduce amendments to appease the intransigent wing. These amendments promise that Israel will never negotiate with the PLO, will never allow the establishment of a Palestinian state, will not halt the building of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and will not permit East Jerusalem Palestinians to take part in the elections.

Shamir has thus categorically answered all the questions he was asked about the elections with these clear and specific amendments. We believe that the unanimous approval by the Likud Central Committee of these amendments means that the curtain has been brought down on the first act of the play. The second act began immediately; namely, the eruption of differences between the Labor Party and the Likud. Shim'on Peres said that he does not approve of these amendments and that he will issue a statement on them. Undoubtedly, the exchange of accusations between the Labor Party and the Likud will go sky high. The curtain might be brought down on this act and then open on the third act; that is, a proposal to hold new elections in Israel in order to categorically define the position of the coalition partners. The talk about the election might take a long time. The aim of all this is to contain the intifadah with bullets, deportations, starvation, and the effects of time. In all of this, Israel is counting on the time factor.

PLO's Kamal Departs With Message for 'Arafat

NC0607221789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—PLO Representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal left Cairo for Tunis this morning.

In a predeparture statement, he disclosed that he is bearing an oral message from President Husni Mubarak to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on recent developments and the outcome of the talks held between Egypt, the United States, and the Soviet Union on the preparations for an international peace conference. He noted that the message falls within the framework of the continuous consultations between Cairo and the PLO.

Kamal said that 'Arafat is expected to arrive in the next few days prior to President Mubarak's foreign tour.

He pointed out that 'Arafat and Mubarak will discuss the moves of the tripartite committee to end the Lebanese crisis as well as ways of enhancing the committee's role proceeding from the Casablanca summit resolutions.

Kamal further said that 'Arafat will soon meet with some Palestinian and Arab figures. He noted that the coming months will witness tangible progress in Egyptian-Syrian relations and in Syrian-Palestinian relations within the context of Arab solidarity and true support for the intifadah [uprising].

Concluding his statement, Kamal revealed that a high-level Palestinian envoy will head for Khartoum to discuss ways to strengthen Palestinian-Sudanese relations with a view to supporting the Palestinian intifadah and Arab solidarity.

DFLP's 'Abd-Rabbuh Arrives, Makes Statement

NC0707090289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, deputy secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and PLO Executive Committee member, arrived here early this morning leading a DFLP delegation on a visit to Egypt during which the front will name a resident Cairo representative who will work from the PLO office.

A Palestinian source in Cairo has stated that the DFLP decided to name Jamal Zaqqut as its permanent representative in Cairo. Zaqqut was recently deported from the occupied territories by the Israeli authorities on charges of playing an active role in the ongoing intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories. The source added that Egypt, the PLO, and the DFLP had reached an agreement on this issue.

In a statement to MENA, 'Abd-Rabbuh said his visit is part of the continuing and constant Palestinian-Egyptian exchanges. He added that he will hold talks with Egyptian officials on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the course of the peace process, particularly in light of the recent progress following the Madrid European summit statement and the positions taken by some countries and forces pointing to the need to expedite the convening of an international peace conference for the Middle East. He added that his talks will also touch on the situation resulting from the increased Israeli repression and terrorism in the occupied territories, particularly the deportations and mass detentions that have increased lately in an effort to end the intifadah.

'Abd-Rabbuh expressed his appreciation for the stand of Egypt and President Husni Mubarak in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people led by the PLO at all Arab and international forums, the latest being the Casablanca summit. He added that further consultations are needed to activate the Casablanca summit resolution calling for coordination among the five Arab states concerned with peace; namely, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Asked about the viability of the proposal for elections in the occupied territories, the Palestinian official said it is enough here to refer to the debate of the Likud Central Committee for the world to realize once again that the so-called Shamir plan for elections is merely a maneuver to escalate terrorism and end not only the uprising but also all the available chances for peace. He stressed that the recent Likud meeting points to the continuing intransigence and complete rejection of the will of the international community to promote a balanced peace process.

Asked about the incident involving the Israeli bus caused by a Palestinian youngster yesterday, 'Abd-Rabbuh said this incident is an expression of the serious situation prevailing in the occupied territories. He added that the Israeli occupation crimes in the territories during May and June alone left more than 90 Palestinians martyred, more than 4,000 wounded, hundreds detained, and several homes demolished. This, he said, prompted the Palestinians to escalate their confrontation.

Sudan's Al-Mirghani Requests Political Asylum

NC0607103389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1006 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—The Egyptian weekly AL-MUSAWWAR has disclosed that Ahmad al-Mirghani, former Sudanese State Council chairman, has asked Egypt for political asylum.

In its Friday edition the magazine says that Cairo has advised Khartoum of this request and added that Al-Mirghani is expected to reside in his house in Alexandria.

The Al-Mirghani family has a palace in Alexandria, which the Egyptian Government gave to the head of the Al-Mirghani family before 1952.

Sidqi Cited on Stability of New Sudanese Regime

JN0607161389 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Jul 89 p 1

[By Mahmud Nafadi]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi announced that the situation in Sudan is stable and that stability there is being bolstered further. He added: We wish the fraternal Sudanese people all prosperity and progress, considering that our two peoples maintain friendly and amiable ties.

The prime minister added that Egypt's official recognition of the Sudanese Government has had a positive effect on the new Sudanese leaders and on the Arab and international levels, particularly as this was the first official recognition of the new Sudanese regime.

Dr Sidqi referred to the possibility of the arrival of a Sudanese envoy in Cairo today or tomorrow.

Finance Minister Discusses New Budget

JN3006084489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Jun 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Commenting on the People's Assembly members' discussions of the new budget, which will be implemented as of next Saturday [1 July], Finance Minister Muhammad al-Razzaz said that wages will increase by 13.3 percent over those in the fiscal year 1988/89 budget. This increase reflects the state's desire to improve the living conditions of employees through gradual adjustment of wages, he said.

The minister asserted that the government is seeking to secure the financial revenues necessary to face the increase in wages of state and public sector employees. He asserted that the new budget gives a high priority to the social dimension and that 30 percent of the budget is allocated to social services. He added that the government refused to reduce subsidies out of its belief in the need to relieve those of low income from suffering.

The minister asserted that the Armed Forces only takes the minimum level of ordinary expenditure from the budget and that this is made under the supervision of the audit agency. Also, the investment expenditure for the Armed Forces represents an investment and creates the stable atmosphere necessary for the production process.

Dr al-Razzaz said that the budget includes the credits necessary to repay the interest on domestic and foreign loans. This interest represents 19.3 percent of the sum of current expenses in the budget and is related to the repayment of debts actually due to the Central Bank and the national investment bank. [passage omitted]

Libya

Sudanese Military Officials Arrive in Tripoli

LD0607165489 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir and Major Ibrahim Shams al-Din, members of the Revolutionary Command Council in fraternal Sudan, and the delegation accompanying them arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

They were met at Tripoli International Airport by Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, and by the ambassador of fraternal Sudan in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Staff Brig Gen al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir made a statement to JANA. He said: Our visit to the Great Jamahiriyah is but a visit to a brother country with whom we have strong relations. He pointed out that this visit comes in the wake of the recent events in Sudan. Staff Brig Gen al-Tijani said: We must visit our brother, especially in the Great Jamahiriyah to clarify what happened in Sudan and to assess the current situation. He pointed out that whatever happens in Sudan is of interest to Libya and whatever happens in Libya is of interest to Sudan.

Morocco

President Bush Telephones King Hassan II 3 Jul

LD0307231189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] We have just received the following item: His Majesty King Hassan II received today, Monday, a telephone call from U.S. President George Bush, who wanted to personally congratulate His Majesty on his 60th birthday.

During this telephone conversation, which was characterized by the warmth and amity that reflect the excellent bilateral relations of friendship and respect existing between the American and Moroccan peoples, and the deep and mutual admiration between His Majesty King Hassan II and George Bush, the U.S. President expressed to His Majesty his personal sentiments for good health, long life, happiness and prosperity for the Moroccan people.

The U.S. President informed His Majesty that because he will personally take part in the meeting of the seven industrialized countries, a U.S. delegation headed by Admiral William Crowe, U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, will leave for Morocco to represent him in the festivities marking the 60th birthday of his Majesty.

In addition, the U.S. President talked at length with His Majesty on the Middle East situation, and he renewed U.S. support for the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon. He expressed the hope that a quick and lasting solution could be found for this conflict that has been raging for more than 10 years.

With regard to the Palestinian cause, the leaders of both countries discussed more suitable ways and methods for the establishment of a just and final peace in this Middle East region.

Protocol Signed on Ratifying UMA Treaty 30 Jun

LD3006222789 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Excerpts] A ceremony marking the completion of arrangements for ratifying the Marrakech treaty, which led to the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Rabat this evening. Mr Moulay Driss Alaoui M'Dahgri, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in charge of Maghreban affairs, made a speech on the occasion stressing the importance of such a meeting which is a major step toward building the Arab Maghreb. In this respect he said:

[Begin M'Dahgri recording] Our leaders' directives, their far-sightedness and their firm will—which was crystallized in the Zeralda meeting in June 1988 and culminated in the Marrakech summit on 17 February 1989—constitute an incentive for us all to endeavor in this framework to find all the means and ways that would enable us to move more and more toward our unionist action. The ratification of the recommendations made at the Marrakech summit—resolutions that include programs of joint action—also constitutes an essential framework so we can work within a general secretariat, a follow-up committee, and the various bodies mentioned by the Marrakech treaty with a view to reaching the desired goal. [end recording]

Mr M'Dahgri also hailed the important steps made by the UMA over the past 4 months owing to the mutual trust existing between the members of the UMA and their desire to reinforce unionist action between them. [passage omitted]

A protocol on ratifying the UMA treaty was signed on the Moroccan side by Mr Moulay Driss Alaoui M'Dahgri; on the Mauritanian side by Mr Ahmed Ould Sidi, secretary of state in charge of Maghreban Affairs; on the Libyan side by Muhammad Abu-Qasim al-Zuwwi, the resident secretary to Morocco. The Republic of Tunisia was represented by the Tunisian ambassador to Morocco, Mr Zouheir Chelli. The document was signed on the Algerian side by Algeria's charge d'affaires in Rabat, Mr Abdelkarim Benhassine.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Mohamed Seqat, the secretary general of the UMA, and representatives of the member-states in the UMA General Secretariat.

Saudi King Arrives; Welcomed by Hassan II 6 Jul

LD0607173889 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived this afternoon at Rabat-Sale Airport. He was welcomed at the airport by His Majesty King Hassan II, May God protect him, who was flanked by His Royal Highness the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed, and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Former Prime Minister Al-Mahdi Arrested 6 Jul

NC0607183889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jul (MENA)—Sudan television announced this evening that former Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been arrested. The television cited a statement by the Sudanese Armed Forces General Command announcing his arrest.

Further on Al-Mahdi Arrest

EA0607191989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Gentlemen, we have received the following:

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was arrested this morning. We will furnish you with more details shortly.

Held in Central Prison

NC0707070789 Paris AFP in English 0658 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, July 7 (AFP)—Sudan's ousted Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is being held in Khartoum's central prison and will go on trial soon, a senior Sudanese officer told AFP Friday.

Colonel Ma'mun Hasan, a member of the new military leader's staff, said that the former prime minister had been arrested near Khartoum Airport on Thursday.

Lieutenant-General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir seized control of the country in a bloodless military coup last Friday [30 June].

Col Hasan, quoting the Sudanese Armed Forces daily AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH said Mr al-Mahdi had been arrested in the 'Amarat area near the airport.

He would get a "fair trial," Col Hasan added.

The Army daily is the only newspaper being published in Sudan.

Former Minister Surrenders

NC0607173089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1716 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jul (MENA)—Salah 'Abd-al-Salam, former minister of cabinet affairs, today surrendered to the Revolution Command Council authorities. It is well known that the minister fled with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi a few hours after the revolution began, and that he is very close to Al-Mahdi.

RCC Spokesman Gives News Conference 6 Jul

NC0607175789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jul (MENA)—Staff Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], head of the information committee, and the RCC's official spokesman, has denied reports that former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is hiding in the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum.

Speaking at a press conference in Khartoum today, Col Sulayman stressed that Al-Mahdi is in Khartoum, the capital, that he constitutes no danger, and that he has no alternative but to give himself up. He asked: If Al-Mahdi believes that he is innocent, why has he not yet surrendered in order to prove his innocence before the judiciary?

Asked by the MENA correspondent in Khartoum about the details of the success of the Sudanese national salvation revolution from its first hours, and the absence of clashes and bloodshed, Col Sulayman said: The plans for the revolution in Egypt of 23 July 1952 were not revealed until several years later. The Sudanese revolution command will reveal the details of the success of the national salvation revolution in Sudan in the years to come.

The MENA correspondent asked another question about the myth of the Sudanese partisan militias, about which much was heard before the revolution, and what has become of them. The RCC spokesman replied that these militias were merely "empty balloons," and the aim behind them was to threaten the Armed Forces so that the latter could not fulfill the Sudanese people's wishes and desires. He stressed that the revolution was a white one that was sound and free of bloodshed.

Responding to a question about the fate of the son of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who is an Armed Forces officer, the RCC spokesman declared that Al-Mahdi's son is a Sudanese citizen and that the arrest campaign does not involve all the Sudanese people. Those who have been detained are the corrupt politicians and their arrest is in their favor, [as received], he added.

Asked about popular participation in the government, Col Sulayman said: The RCC has now a program and when this program is implemented the RCC will think about the extent of popular participation. He affirmed that Sudanese businessmen and entrepreneurs have voiced their support for the revolution and have begun to charge less for their commodities than was the case before the revolution.

On the problem in south Sudan, the spokesman said that the 1-month truce declared by the RCC as of 4 July received a response from John Garang's movement. He added that an RCC delegation will soon meet with the commander of the Garang movement [as received] for discussions about the problem of the south. He emphasized that the Garang movement had expressed a desire for peace during a telephone conversation with the RCC.

Col Sulayman started his news conference by reviewing the causes of the national salvation revolution in Sudan. He said that all Armed Forces units in the Sudanese regions voiced their support for the revolution during the first 24 hours. He declared that this reaffirms the nationalism of the Sudanese Armed Forces. He pointed out that the revolution gained popular support because the RCC was aware of the people's needs. He went on to say that there is also international support, including that of fraternal Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and other Arab and African states. He pointed out that more than one state recognizes the revolution every day. This is because fraternal states are convinced that the new command is sincere and honest, he added.

Col Sulayman said: We open our hearts to the world media . Sudan will remain open to everyone working in the world media.

[Paris AFP in English at 1719 GMT on 6 July adds: "A delegation from Sudan's ruling military junta left here Thursday for talks with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam in Addis Ababa, a member of the junta said.

"Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman told a press conference that leaders of John Garang's rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), based in Addis, had telephoned a junta member 'to assure (him) of their support' for the new regime.

"The junta member was a cousin of Colonel Garang, Col Sulayman said, but did not name him.

"Col. Sulayman added that there were differences within the newly installed Revolution Command Council for National Salvation on peace efforts in the south of Sudan.

"'We have our conception of peace and junta officers from the south have their own, but we are optimistic,' he said."]

Situation in South 'Stable'

EA0607195489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman al-Badri, member of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC], chairman of the Information Committee, and official spokesman of the RCC, says that Garang's movement has expressed understanding for the RCC's decisions on a cease-fire. He said this had been made clear during a telephone conversation between the movement and a member of the RCC.

During a news conference held this afternoon at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, His Excellency confirmed that the situation in the south was stable. He said: We in the military have a better idea of the movement's views. We will work for peace in accordance with a specific policy which goes beyond previous initiatives which were based on narrow party positions.

He said that since independence there had been a deterioration in all areas of life in Sudan in spite of the country's tremendous potential. Recently the parties had spoiled [words indistinct]. That was the reason why the Armed Forces had effected the desired change, assuming their responsibilities for protecting the homeland and its resources and taking advantage of their ability to assess and direct.

He explained that Arab unity was regarded as the strategic (?bastion) of the revolution.

His Excellency praised the role of information. He called on newsmen to convey a sound impression of events in the Sudan to the international community. He said the revolution would strive to implement its program of sound government in the country. He added that recognition of the revolution by friendly, sisterly, and other countries was clear proof of its credibility and its choice of the right road.

Search for Politicians Continues

EA0607202889 Khartoum SUNA in English 1615 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 6 July (SUNA)—Member of the National Salvation Revolutionary Council (NSRC), Col Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, who is also chairman of the Information Committee, denied categorically allegations saying that Former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has hidden himself in the U.S. Embassy here. In a press conference he held here today, the NSRC member said al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is still inside the capital and that he (Sadiq) has no other option than to surrender to the security authorities.

Col Sulayman asserted that the current move of arrests includes detention of all he [as received] who could pose a threat to the current political situation and those "whom we want to protect." A search is still being carried out to arrest politicians who are now at large, said Col Sulayman.

Investigations are now being conducted with civilians who were arrested by the deposed government under accusation of involvement in an alleged coup, while the military men detained for the same accusation were already released, said Col Sulayman.

Anyanya-II Issues Support Statement 5 Jul

EA0607110989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The Anyanya-II [A-II] General Command issued a statement yesterday, confirming its satisfaction at, and acceptance of the declaration of a (?cease-fire) in operational areas. It also declared its commitment to the achievement of complete peace.

The statement said: A-II is under your leadership, will follow all orders issued by your command and will march in time with the Armed Forces.

We in A-II [words indistinct], in order to bless Sudan with peace. We repeat our commitment to and support for your stance as being that of truth and struggle. Follow the path of national salvation and God will see you [words indistinct] service to our masses and peace.

Egyptian Paper Interviews Al-Bashir

NC0707061189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0154 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] in Sudan, has affirmed that the new Sudanese leadership looks forward to having closer relations with Egypt that are compatible with the special nature of Egyptian-Sudanese ties.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AKHBAR to be published Friday, Lt Gen al-Bashir said President Husni Mubarak has proven by word and deed that Egypt is the pulsating heart of the Arab world and that it does not spare any support or assistance to the Arab and African brothers, regardless of their inclinations.

Asked about the political inclination of the Sudanese revolution, Lt Gen al-Bashir said the revolution of national salvation is a pan-Arab one that is not affiliated with any party, body, or ethnic group. The revolution emerged, he added, to rescue this nation from the devastation and deterioration that everyone experienced under the former regime. He said the first duty of the

salvation revolution is to establish the state's authority, maintain law and order, and strike at any racial, sectarian, or partisan trends seeking to undermine national unity.

Regarding the efforts undertaken by the RCC to achieve peace and national unity in southern Sudan, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: We addressed a call for peace and for holding talks with those carrying arms in the south in order to achieve a just peace that could put an end to bloodshed among the sons of the same homeland. He noted in this respect that a delegation had left to meet with John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], to hold talks with the movement toward achieving that end. He stressed the need for a negotiated solution to the problem in the south and not a military one, expressing the hope that the brothers in the SPLM will respond to the revolution since we share the same principles.

Asked about the delay in forming the civilian government, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: We are taking our time because we must ensure our ministers have certain qualifications. He added: We will choose the ministers on the basis of their competence and moral integrity from figures who are not affiliated with any party.

Asked about Sudan's deteriorating relations with its neighbors, Lt Gen al-Bashir said Sudan's deteriorating relations with almost all its African neighbors as well as other countries were due to the presence of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in power. Once Al-Mahdi was gone, he added, we sensed a response and welcome from all the fraternal, neighboring, and world countries. This means that the deterioration of these relations had something to do with the personality of Al-Mahdi.

In response to another question on the most drastic mistakes of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi that triggered the revolution, Lt Gen al-Bashir said they were too many to mention. Suffice it to mention here that the former prime minister, after undermining democracy, led people to believe that democracy in this way is worthless. All this is the result of his corrupt practices that ruined all the state's institutions. He noted that the revolution will not (?forgive) anyone who committed a crime against the people of Sudan and will strike violently at those responsible for this damage.

Delegation Departs for Visit to Addis Ababa

EA0607195089 Khartoum SUNA in French 1520 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 6 July (SUNA)—A delegation of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation, led by Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the council, left Khartoum this morning for Addis Ababa, at the start of an official visit to Ethiopia. Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman al-Badri, member of the RCC, told a news conference in Khartoum today that the delegation would [word indistinct] with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. [passage omitted]

'Biographies' of RCC Coup Leaders

JN0507103589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 Jul 89 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Biographies of Members of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation"]

[Text] 1. Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir. Born in the village of Hawsh Banqa [name as published], Shandi, the Nile Province on 1 January, 1944. Married, no children.

Qualifications: Fellow of the Sudanese Academy for Administrative Science; master's degree in military science from Sudan; master's degree in military science from Malaysia. Before the revolution he was selected for a course of study at the Nasir Military Academy in Egypt.

Units in which he served: The Western Command, airborne forces, commander of the 8th Mobile Infantry Brigade.

2. Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih Ahmad. Born in al-Qadar [name as published], Dunqulah, Northern Province on 1 January, 1944 [as published]. Married with children.

Qualifications: Military courses in Sudan, Egypt, the USSR, and the FRG.

Units in which he served: Transportation Corps; Maintenance Corps, the Upper Nile military region, the Northern Command, the Services Corps.

3. Staff Brigadier General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir. Born in Aldur [name as published], Kutum district, Darfur Region on 1 January, 1945. Married with children.

Qualifications: Master's degree in military science from Saudi Arabia; two military courses in Britain and India.

Units in which he served: Central Command, Transportation Corps, Command and Staff College, officer's affairs branch—military operations, supply and logistics branch, the Equatoria military region. He was selected to serve in the UAE [United Arab Emirates].

4. Staff Brigadier General 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan 'Uthman. Born in al-Khujallab [name as published], Khartoum North, al-Khartum governorate on 1 January, 1946. Married with children.

Qualifications: Master's degree in military science from Sudan, transportation platoon command course in Egypt.

Units in which he served: Khartoum garrison, Services Corps, logistics and supply branch, Transportation Corps, officers affairs branch in the Upper Nile military region.

5. Staff Brigadier General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih al-Zayn. Born in Shandi town on 1 January 1944. Married, two sons and a daughter.

Qualifications: Field enginnering course in Pakistan, engineering company command course in India, master's degree in military science from Saudi Arabia.

Some of the Units in which he served: Western Command, Khartoum Garrison—Northern Command, Engineering Corps—the 14th Brigade, assistant military attache in Cairo, intelligence, administration.

6. Brigadier General Ibrahim Nayil Idam. Born in Dilling, Southern Kordofan Province on 1 January, 1946. Married with children.

Qualifications: Course in topography in Egypt, battalion command course in Egypt.

Some of the units in which he served: The Western Command, Signal Corps, the 1st Infantry Division, commander of the independent 11th Infantry Brigade in Torit. He also worked in the Sudanese Security Department and was selected to serve in Kuwait.

7. Staff Brigadier General Dominique Casiono Fitwawa Bakhit [name as published]. Born in Maridi, Equatoria Province on 1 January, 1942. Married with children.

Qualifications: Master's degree in military science from Canada, infantry company command course in Sudan, master's degree in military science and artillery officers' course in India.

Some of the units in which he served: Artillery Corps, governor of Western Equatoria Province, the Equatoria military region, commander of the independent 16th Brigade in Maridi.

8. Naval Engineer Staff Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar. Born in al-Jazirah Miqrat [name as published], Abu Hamad District, Nile Province on 1 January, 1949. Married with three sons. Joined the Armed Forces in September 1969. He graduated from the Yugoslav Naval Academy with the rank of first lieutenant in 1971 and rose to the rank of colonel in 1988.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Yugoslavia, master's degree in military science from Sudan, master's degree in maritime science from Egypt, higher diploma in general administration from Khartoum University, and is currently preparing a thesis for master's degree in general administration in Khartoum University.

9. Staff Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman al-Badri. Born in Khartoum North on 5 January, 1949. Married.

Qualifications: An advanced course in armor from Jordan and a master's degree in military science from Sudan.

Units in which he served: The 7th Armored Division and the Command and Staff College.

10. Staff Air Force Colonel Faysal Madani Mukhtar. Born in Sannar, the Blue Nile Province, in the Central Region on 1 January 1946. Married, five children.

Qualifications: Aviation diploma from the USSR, master in aviation from the United Kingdom, specialized staff officers course from the United States.

He was appointed an Air Force pilot in 1971 and rose to the rank of colonel in 1986.

11. Colonel Pio Yikwan Denq [name as published]. Born 1 January, 1948; married.

Qualifications: Minor staff officers course and a battalion commanders' course in India.

Units in which he served: The 1st Infantry Division, Weapon's Corps, appointed governor of al-Subat [name as published] Province, the Officers Affairs Branch, the General Inspection Commission.

12. Colonel Martin Malwal Arup [name as published]. Born in Rumbek, the Upper Nile Province, on 1 January, 1948; married.

Qualifications: The basic parachuting course in Egypt.

Units in which he served: The Airborne Forces, the 1st Southern Division, the cooperative establishment, the Armed Forces representative to the People's Assembly in the Southern Region.

13. Staff Lieutenant Colonel Bakri Hasan. Born in al-Hafirah, Dunqulah District, the Northern Province on 1 January, 1949; married with five children.

Qualifications: Master's degree in military science from Sudan, course in parachuting in Egypt.

Units in which he served: Airborne Forces.

14. Staff Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad al-Amin. Born in Armal [name as published], Kordofan Province, in 1948; married with four children.

Qualifications: Master's degree in military science from Sudan, advanced signal course in the United States, diploma in Islamic call and studies from Sudan.

Units in which he served: In the Signal Corps since his graduation.

15. Major Ibrahim Shams al-Din Ibrahim. Born in al-Aqidah [name as published] in the Shandi District on 1 January, 1959; bachelor.

Qualifications: Diploma in military science.

Units: the 7th Armored Division, the Unified Training Center.

Tunisia

'Arafat Briefs Ben Ali on Mideast Developments

LD0307142289 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had a meeting with the head of the Palestine state, Yasir 'Arafat, in the presence of the premier and of Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis.

The head of the Palestinian state said that he was very pleased to meet with the president and briefed him on the results of his tour to a number of Asian countries. He said that he also discussed with the president the importance of developing the Palestine-U.S. dialogue, especially since the important statement issued by the EC which strongly and clearly supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in every sense, in addition to the statement's clear stands regarding the resolution of the Middle East issue and an international peace conference with the participation of the UN Security Council's permanent members and all parties to the Middle East dispute, including the PLO.

Yasir 'Arafat added that his meeting with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali also dealt with the situation in the occupied territories and the escalation of Israeli military violence against Palestinian children and women and the need for moves at all levels, including in the Security Council, to take a firm stand against this serious policy, especially after the recent measures of deporting Palestinians by the Israeli Government.

President Yasir 'Arafat said that he conveyed to President Ben Ali the greetings of his brothers in the Palestinian leadership during a series of meetings held in sisterly and beloved Tunisia. He added that he also thanked President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for Tunisia's principled and committed stand toward the Palestinian issue.

Syrian Premier Arrives for Official Visit

JN0307160389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Excerpts] [Syrian] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi arrived in Tunis at noon today on an official visit to Tunisia in response to an invitation from Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, who led the welcoming party at the airport. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi told the TUNISIAN NEWS AGENCY he is confident that the visit is an opportunity to exchange views on various Arab and international developments and explore the best avenues for cooperation and boosting bilateral ties according to the directions of Their Excellencies Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. It is natural, he added, that our meetings and solidarity should open up numerous mutually beneficial horizons. Al-Zu'bi said the developing cooperation between Syria and Tunisia will make a positive contribution to the common Arab effort and solidify the foundations of joint Arab action and boost Arab solidarity against all the challenges facing the Arab nation.

Al-Zu'bi Meets Baccouche 3 Jul

JN0407081289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Tunis—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche received Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at the Prime Ministry yesterday. Syrian Ambassador in Tunis Ahmad 'Isa and Tunisian Ambassador in Damascus Abdelhamid 'Ammar attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with a number of issues of interest to the two fraternal countries, and developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Following this, an official round of talks was held between the Syrian side led by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Tunisian side led by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. [passage omitted]

During this round of talks, the two sides discussed those items on the agenda related to promoting relations between the two countries in all fields. The ministers concerned on both sides and the technical experts were instructed to review and follow up the results that were reached as well as the draft agreements that will be endorsed during this visit. [passage omitted]

Committee Resumes Work 4 Jul

JN0407163589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] The technical committee stemming from the higher Syrian-Tunisian joint committee resumed work in Tunis this morning to discuss formulas of the draft agreements and protocols scheduled to be signed at the end of the visit. The talks were attended by the prime minister's delegation comprising Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of financial affairs; and Ahmad 'Isa, Syria's ambassador in Tunis.

Ben Ali Receives Al-Zu'bi 5 Jul

JN0507160589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received at 0900 this morning Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, currently on an official visit to Tunisia. The meeting was attended by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Syrian Ambassador in Tunis Ahmad 'Isa, and Tunisian Ambassador in Damascus Abdelhamid 'Ammar.

Al-Zu'bi conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, dealing with bilateral relations and means of promoting them in the various fields in addition to the situation in both the Arab and international arenas.

He also conveyed President al-Asad's greetings and good wishes to President Ben Ali and the fraternal Tunisian people.

The Tunisian president conveyed to Mr al-Zu'bi his greetings, thanks, and good wishes to President Hafiz al-Asad and his appreciation of Al-Asad's interest in developing relations between the two friendly countries.

Al-Zu'bi made a statement after this meeting in which he said: During this meeting, we reviewed issues of mutual interest on the Arab and international levels. The points of view were in full agreement on every subject we discussed. He added: We are confident that our relations will develop continuously thanks to the support and patronage received by the two presidents, Hafiz al-Asad and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Accords Signed 6 Jul

JN0607205189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zub'i and his delegation returned to Damascus this afternoon after a visit to Tunisia in response to an invitation from Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. [passage omitted]

At Government House today, Al-Zu'bi and Baccouche held a meeting in which they exchanged cordial remarks and discussed issues of interest to the two fraternal countries.

This was followed by the final session of official talks under Al-Zu'bi and Baccouche. The meeting was attended by the members of the Syrian delegation: Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of finance; and Ahmad 'Isa, Syria's ambassador to Tunisia. It was also attended by the members of the Tunisian delegation.

The prime minister said that the talks with the Tunisian brothers were held in a brotherly, cordial atmosphere. They covered the aspects of joint cooperation in all fields. These talks will result in the future development of the Syrian-Tunisian ties and open new vistas for strengthening and promoting this development in implementation of directives from Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Al-Zu'bi added that "the visit and the talks we held established a basis for our joint march toward further connection and cooperation, for exchanging products and expertise, and for integration in the economic, trade, cultural, information, and tourist activities, which will be strengthened by joint meetings, contacts, and visits, so that we can build a new block in the edifice of the Tunisian-Syrian cooperation and to realize the aspirations of the Arab peoples of Tunisia and Syria." The prime minister praised Tunisia's economic and social progress and concluded his speech by thanking the Tunisian Government for the cordiality and reception accorded to him during the Syrian delegation's stay in Tunisia.

The prime minister extended an invitation to Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche to visit Damascus.

The prime minister was followed by Baccouche, who said that Al-Zu'bi's visit to Tunisia was a good occasion to entrench and promote the advanced Syrian-Tunisian relations. Baccouche praised the brotherly spirit that prevailed during the talks—a spirit that expressed the joint desire to realize the aspirations of the two peoples, strengthen bilateral ties, and face all the external challenges confronting the Arab nation.

Baccouche said that during its history, Syria had a great role and important position. The aim of Syria has been defending the Arabs' right of existence and survival and playing a great pan-Arab role under President Hafiz al-Asad, realizing progress and strength for the Arabs and bolstering Arab solidarity in all fields.

Baccouche said that President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Tunisia and the subsequent meetings in Algeria and Casablanca have been a powerful impetus for joint action between our two countries. Al-Zu'bi's visit to Tunisia will further increase the momentum of our cooperation and enrich our economic and cultural cohesion, ensuring for us continuous attachment.

Baccouche also said that the history of Syria and Tunisia prompts us to progress and promote our relations, which will have great effect in highlighting the importance of joint Arab action.

Al-Zu'bi and Baccouche then signed the minutes of the first session of the Syrian-Tunisian Joint Higher Committee in the presence of the members of the two delegations. They also signed the cooperation protocol, which includes an agreement to establish a Syrian-Tunisian joint higher committee under the chairmanship of the two prime ministers. They also signed a protocol for commercial cooperation, an agreement pertaining to navigation and maritime transport, an agreement for scientific and technical cooperation, a program for cooperation in the field of information, and a program for cooperation in tourism and handicrafts. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Finance Minister Assesses Current Budget

JN0507145289 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 4 Jul 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] Kuwait, July 3, (Agencies): Kuwait said today it had boosted defence spending in its first budget since the Gulf war ceasefire between Iran and Iraq.

"Spending on defence is in continuous increase," Minister of Finance Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi told a news conference. He gave no figures.

Outlining the budget for the year that started July 1, he said: "For the utmost importance the state gives to defence... it will support the military both in the Ministry of Interior and the National Guard."

Al-Kharafi gave no details of the cost of running the police, the para-military National Guard and the 20,000-strong armed forces.

Defence spending referred to in the budget does not include capital purchases of defence equipment, according to diplomats.

Just before Iran agreed to a UN-brokered ceasefire in the war in July last year, Kuwait signed an agreement with Egypt for the supply of armoured personnel carriers (APC's) and an air defence system worth more than $500 million.

Kuwait also agreed last year to buy from the United States 40 F/A-18 fighter-bombers and Maverick missiles in a deal worth $1.9 billion.

Kuwait in 1988 also conlcuded a deal to buy from the Soviet Union 245 APC's worth about $300 million.

This year it has agreed to buy from Yugoslavia undisclosed military hardware which Gulf military experts believe to be Yugoslav versions of Soviet T-72 tanks.

Al-Kharafi said government oil revenue in the budget year would rise 8.6 per cent to KD [Kuwait dinars] 1.942 billion (about $6.6 billion). Non-oil revenues would go up 8.7 per cent to KD288.5 million ($975 million).

This would allow a 4.4 per cent rise in total expenditures to KD 3.34 billion ($11.4 billion).

"The price of oil still forms, and will continue to form a basic element of our revenues. In the future there should be a certain amount of stability," he said.

But this stability was conditional on producing countries reaching an agreement on oil issues, the minister said.

"We calculated it (the price of oil) at $15 per barrel. In this (budget) period we adhere strictly to supporting the world price. We estimated in our budget 1.35 million barrels (per day)," he said.

Al-Kharafi said the government would continue to finance the estimated KD1.3 billion ($4.4 billion) budget deficit by issuing treasury bills and bonds locally.

He said the KD3.0 billion ($10 billion) borrowing ceiling legislated by the government earlier this year should be sufficient to cover the next 12 months.

On the expected increase in non-oil revenues, by about KD23.5 million, Al-Kharafi said it is a natural result of the additional service fees collected against telephone electricity and water and transit shipments brought by development of the building and trade sectors in the country.

Speaking of the expenditures in the new budget, the official underlined the government's continued spending on services offered to the public and development of those services. He remarked: "Rationalisation does not only mean cutting down expenditures but also making sure that public spending is made in the right place and for optimum use."

About the budget's first chapter, on salaries of government staff, Al-Kharafi said estimates totalled KD927 million, up by 4.6 per cent than last year's.

He explained that KD34.7 million have been allocated to meet appointment of Kuwaiti graduates. KD5.3 million will be spent for housing allowance for government employees.

In addition, the official said, nearly KD6.4 million have been set aside to cover expenses for new jobs at KD28.5 million in costs for promotions, annual increments, allowances and other state incentives.

Referring to security and judicial aspects the finance minister said the first chapter provides for strenghening of the security organ of each of the Interior Ministry and the National Guard as well as the judiciary and state prosecution by creating new job opportunities.

He indicated that rationalisation in this chapter is represented by maintaining the policy of freezing new appointments and cancellation of posts vacated by non-Kuwaitis, except within the narrowest limit and for rare technical skills.

Kuwaitis now represents 44.5 per cent of the entire government staff, Al-Kharafi said, adding that allocations for transport and equipment procurements during fiscal 1989-90 reached KD28 million, an increase of 5.7 per cent over last year, to cover furniture for 34 new schools and supply some ministries with computers to upgrade performance.

Estimates of the chapter on building projects and government appropriations increased by less than 0.5 per cent over last year to reach KD760 million, he explained.

Giving details, Al-Kharafi pointed out that estimates for building projects totalled KD560 million, less by KD97 million than last year, because of near completion of most major schemes, such as the two power stations in al-Zawr and Sabayhiyah, two power control centres, the high-voltage station and the network of speedways.

Al-Kharafi said despite the decrease, new projects are included to complete the country's infrastructure, such as additional housing projects and new campus for Kuwait University.

In contrast, allocations made for government appropriations increased by KD100 million over last year to KD200 million to be spent over the next five years, he indicated.

Miscellaneous expenditures and transferable payments in the new budget are estimated at KD1,350 million, a rise of seven per cent over last year.

Turkish Ambassador Criticizes Bulgaria's Policy

LD0307133189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1226 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 3 (KUNA)—Turkish ambassador to Kuwait and Bahrain Guner Oztek has denounced what he described as suppressive policies by Bulgarian authorities against Turkish Muslim minority there.

In a statement to Kuwait weekly AL-MUJTAMA' Guner said the Bulgarian Government was killing, torturing and detaining members of Turkish minority opposing policies of "Bulgarization and absorption."

The diplomat said in his remarks, to be published by the magazine tomorrow, that Bulgaria was forcing Muslim Turks out of the country "because they were rejecting those coercive campaigns and insisting to keep their identity, culture and religious rights."

Guner briefed the weekly on international organizations' stances towards the ordeal of Muslim minority in Bulgaria describing them as "positive." He said some 20 states have deplored Bulgaria's acts during recent European Security and Cooperation Conference in Paris.

He recalled that the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] foreign ministers during their preparatory meetings for the Islamic summit in Kuwait in January 1987 have also resolved to follow up the problem of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria "so as to rescue members of that suppressed community."

He said his country was seeking an agreement with Bulgaria under which the Bulgarian Government should allow migration of Turkish minority individuals opting to leave Turkey.

PDRY

Syria Reportedly Mediates Between PDRY, 'Ali Nasir

JN0707083089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Jul 89 p 1

[Exclusive]

[Text] Damascus—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Syria is currently making efforts aimed at achieving a reconciliation between the leaders of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] and Former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

Informed Yemeni sources in Damascus told AL-ITTIHAD that [Syrian Prime Minister] Mahmud al-Zu'bi raised with officials in Aden the reconciliation subject during his recent visit to the PRDY.

Interior Minister Sees off Northern Counterpart

EA0107195389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] A delegation from the Ministry of the Interior in the northern part of the homeland, led by brother Dr 'Abdullah Husayn Barakat, minister of interior and member of the permanent committee in the northern part of the homeland, left Aden by road this morning. The minister was seen off at al-Shirayjah border post by Brother Brigadier Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister and minister of interior, and a number of leading officials in the Ministry of the Interior in the southern part.

The two brothers, Salih Munassar al-Siyayli and Dr 'Abdullah Husayn Barakat, inspected al-Shirayjah and Karish border posts. They issued directives on further measures aimed at facilitating the unhindered passage of al-Shirayjah citizens.

Brother Dr 'Abdullah Barakat made a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY after the talks between the Ministries of Interior in the two parts of the homeland and the signing of the minutes on the meeting between the two ministries. He pointed out that his meeting with Brother Brig Salih Munassar al-Siyayli coincided with the first anniversary of the implementation of the decision to allow citizens to move between the two parts using only identity cards. He said it was an opportunity to assess the successful experiment and overcome any difficulties. He expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit to the southern part of the homeland. He said

the visit had helped to strengthen and develop brotherly relations among the united Yemeni people. He expressed the hope that further steps toward unity between the two parts would be taken.

Qatar

Statement Issued Supporting New Sudanese Leaders

JN0101124280 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Doha, 5 Jul (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has announced that what happened in Sudan is viewed as an internal Sudanese affair and added that the statements issued by the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation confirm that this Council is pursuing a positive and constructive policy designed to safeguard security and stability in Sudan and maintain its national unity.

This came in a political statement issued by the Council of Ministers of the State of Qatar following its ordinary weekly meeting which was held today under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir and heir apparent.

The statement affirmed Qatar's eagerness to continuously enhance the fraternal ties between Qatar and Sudan. It expressed Qatar's wishes of success for the new Sudanese leadership in accomplishing the formidable task of realizing the fraternal Sudanese people's aspirations of achieving prosperity and stability and so that it can continue to play its pan-Arab role in support of Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister Comments on Pilgrims

LD0507203989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1650 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Mecca, 5 Jul (SPA)—His Royal Highness Amir Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, interior minister, said that the responsibility for preventing Iranian pilgrims from coming to perform Hajj rites rests with the Iranian rulers. His Royal Highness said at a news conference held today at the end of an inspection tour of Mecca and the Hajj cites, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes all Muslims, including the Iranian brothers." His Royal Highness added: "The Kingdom has not banned the arrival of Iranian pilgrims in any case and Iran's rulers, who stopped their pilgrims, know this and we must tell the Iranian people this truth." His Royal Highness added: "The Kingdom welcomed Iranian pilgrims last year and this year and it will always welcome them as Muslims," and pointed out that Mecca, Medina, and the holy land are open to every Muslim, irrespective of his country, race, and without discrimination.

His Royal Highness said: We do not interject political disputes, problems and relations into this matter; we welcome all Muslims at any time to perform the minor pilgrimage and welcome them every year to perform the pilgrimage, whether they are from Iran or somewhere else. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness announced the arrival of Iranian pilgrims who are resident outside Iran in the Kingdom and pointed out that they are carrying Iranian passports. His Royal Highness said: We welcome Iranian pilgrims from anywhere and therefore a number of them have arrived and this indicates that they are welcome.

His Royal Highness the interior minister stressed that the Kingdom has not and will not let anything harm pilgrims to God's holy mosque.

He said that the Saudi authorities had barred and will continue to bar any party or group whose aim is to harm the pilgrims.

His Royal Highness added that the Saudi authorities assume responsibility for the security, safety, and well-being of pilgrims, to enable them to perform their pilgrimage tranquilly. The Saudi authorities accept nothing that contradicts the pilgrimage rituals or harms the pilgrims.

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif added, in answer to journalists' questions that if Iran's rulers would still like to harm pilgrims to the holy places then we will continue to reject this attitude continuously and permanently. We will not tolerate their tampering with the pilgrims' security and or the nation's security in any way.

His Royal Highness dismissed the allegations and fabrications emanating from Iran's rulers, who claim that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has removed some sacred places.

He said: Let them name these holy places that the Saudi authorities have removed, so that we can reply to this, and know whether these places are sacred or not.

His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz dealt with the false and unjust campaign being waged by the Iranian rulers against the Kingdom, His Highness asserted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has ethics and an orientation which it cannot abandon—the Kingdom relies upon the facts which it brings out. [as received]

His Highness added that the Iranian rulers' method and what they are asserting is a matter which concerns only them. Bringing out facts is, however, the practical thing which would invalidate such fabrications.

His Highness affirmed the Kingdom's, its leaders' and people's, pride that reaching Holy Mecca and holy places has become easy. Also the pilgrims' stay has become a

secure one, during which they feel secure about themselves and their belongings, as well as about their safety. His Highness added that such conditions were not available before the Saudi era; His Highness recalled how Hajj trips used to be and how they are now.

His Highness added: This is what we would like to say to the Iranian rulers and to those who have been misled by them: Had Almighty God not been satisfied with this people and this leadership he would not have given them the right to manage His House and the mosque of the Prophet, may God's peace and benediction be upon him.

His Highness continued: The only thing we long for is His Almighty's satisfaction, the satisfaction of the pilgrims of God's holy places and the Muslims in general.

His Highness stated that the Iranian rulers' assertions are merely fabrications and he added that hundreds of thousands of Muslims come to the Kingdom every year, this reality speaks for itself. We should, however, reveal the facts as they are known, by all Muslims and particularly by our brothers, the sons of the Iranian people. We want those who do not know the truth to learn it, and we want those who have been misled, not to follow fabrications and personal aims.

His Higness the interior minister talked about the decision concerning the quotas for pilgrims from the Islamic states and the time table within which they are applied. He said that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques previously talked about this matter. Action in this connection is very limited. He noted that this is dependent on completing the installations which will accommodate the pilgrims in Holy Mecca.

His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz repeated his words of welcome for the Iranian pilgrims. His Higness said: This does not mean that if they came they will be allowed to do as they please and this applies not only to them but others. He stressed that what the Iran's rulers had done in the past will never be permitted again.

His Higness added: We welcome the Iranian pilgrims. Coming to perform the pilgrimage is permitted to them, but this does not mean that they are allowed to do what they like or do things other than performing the rites of pilgrimage like the rest of the Muslim brothers.

His Highness pointed out that the allegations uttered by the rulers of Iran are their own business. They can say whatever they wish but truth is the one that lasts and is the best.

His Highness affirmed the vigilance of the Saudi authorities and their readiness for any contingency. His Highness said: What happened over the last few years made us unfortunately suppose there is someone who wants to harm pilgrims to the house of God. We are prepared to confront this, whether Iranian pilgrims come or do not come.

His Highness added that if the Iranian pilgrims came to the pilgrimage with instructions from the Iranian rulers to embark on some action then this makes us expect some misbehavior, despite the fact that this is not our feeling, for the matter depends on the directives of Iran's rulers to their pilgrims. In any event this cannot be permitted in any way. However, if the Iranians came to the pilgrimage this does not necessarily increase our apprehension.

His Highness went on to say: If this view and directives from the Iranian rulers to their pilgrims or other pilgrims, continue they will thus be insulting Islam and the Muslims and the pilgrims to God's holy house.

He stressed that the Saudi authorities' task is to stop this directive from the Iranian rulers and prevent its implementation in the holy lands. This is what will happen, that is to stop it, we shall work to achieve this, God willing.

Concerning the statement by one of the Iranian officials, that resuming relations with the Kingdom is dependent on defining the quota of Iranian pilgrims, His Highness said that these words are the words of the official and do not describe the Kingdom's position.

Iranian Allegations on Hajj Quotas Rejected

LD0607134389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1110 GMT 6 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Holy Mecca, 6 Jul (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia once again dismisses the allegations of the rulers of Iran which have been propagated recently by the Iranian news media, particularly items issued by IRNA on 3 July, quoting Iranian leader 'Ali Khamene'i and the Iranian Minister of Culture and Guidance Muhammed Khatami. The allegations are in regard to the quotas of Iranian pilgrims and give the impression that the Saudi authorities prevent Iranian pilgrims from performing the pilgramage rituals, while the contrary is correct.

In this connection, His Excellency Minister of Pilgrimage and Religious Trust 'Abd al-Wahab 'Abd al-Wasi', in reply to these false allegations which are being repeated by the rulers of Iran and which are being broadcast by their mass media told SPA:

The issue of fixing the pilgrim quotas has been settled. There is no scope for bargaining and allegations. Iran's rulers aim at fueling the dessention in the Islamic rank at the time when leaving this Islamic rank has become one of the virtues of these rulers who are trying to carry out psychological operations against the Iranian people, coupled with unfounded allegations that are being refuted by strong evidence.

His Excellency stressed that the Iranian delegation who came to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the beginning of this and last year when pilgrimage arrangements were

taken, was informed of the kingdom's commitment to the quota allocated to Iran, which is 45,000 pilgrims, and of the kingdom's welcome for this number.

His Excellency the minister of hajj and religious trusts pointed out that the rulers of Tehran know very well that the trouble and sabotage acts were carried out in Holy Mecca in 1987. By some of their pilgrims and were encouraged, instigated, and supported by Iranian authorities. They were condemned by the seventh meeting of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministerial conference, which was held in Amman last year, and which also voiced its solidarity with the Kingdom as well as its support for the measures being taken by it in order to provide a suitable atmosphere which would enable the pilgrims to visit God's holy mosque to humbly perform the Hajj rites in security.

His Excellency 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Wasi' recalled that in 1986 the Iranian regime sent explosives to the Hajj with the aim of carrying out sabotage in holy places. He pointed out that Ahmad Khomeyni had admitted in a letter to the Iranian daily ETTELA'AT, which was published on 17 May 89, that Iran had sent a quantity of explosives to the Kingdom in order to carry out what Ahmad Khomeyni himself termed criminal acts.

His Excellency asserted that it is within the right of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—proceeding from the honor of having to do servitude to the two holy places, from its responsibility to safeguard and protect security, order, and the sanctity of the holy places, and the safety of pilgrims to God's holy mosque—to prevent any wrongdoings, contrary to the teaching of the true Islamic religion.

He pointed out the vast support given the kingdom's measures in this respect by the various conferences and symposiums which have been held in a number of venues in the Islamic world, as well as by the latter's numerous societies, institutions, and Islamic centers, which have all affirmed the sanctity of the two holy places and considered as one of the Hajj is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's concern and one of its main duties. They have unanimously supported the quotas of pilgrims. [passage omitted]

Al-Faysal Addresses Press on Tripartite Committee
LD0307230289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, 3 July, SPA—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has declared that the foreign ministers representing the member states of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on the Lebanese issue will submit a report to the committee's leaders in light of the two visits the ministerial committee paid to Damascus and Baghdad today and yesterday.

Upon his arrival in Jeddah from Baghdad this evening he made a statement to the Saudi Press Agency saying that the committee's leaders will clarify, as promised, to the Lebanese, Arab, and international public opinion every step taken, what achievements have been made and which steps will be taken.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal also indicated that the tour of the ministerial committee was useful and important at the same time. He added that the contacts made yesterday and today in Damascus and Baghdad were in accordance with the resolution adopted by the tripartite summit held in Oran, Algeria recently and that they fall within the framework of the committee's program of action.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Moroccan Foreign Minister His Excellency Abdellatif Filali, and Algerian Foreign Minister His Excellency Boualem Bessaieh, had arrived at King Abd al-Aziz International Airport in Jeddah earlier this evening. They were met by the director-general of the Foreign Ministry Department in the western region Salim Sanbal, Moroccan ambassador to the Kingdom, Ahmed Ramzi, [name as received], and Algerian Consul in Jeddah Boumahdi Benyoussef.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Interviewed on Yemeni Unity, ACC
JN0607202689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by the magazine AL-UFUQ and the newspaper AL-QUDS—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Question] There is a growing trend around the world toward a multiparty system. Will the Yemen Arab Republic adopt this system?

[Salih] For your information and that of whomever will see this interview, our standing constitution bans party life and all manner of party activity. Notwithstanding, we have called on political factions to engage in a responsible national dialogue toward building a national charter as a guide for national action in the country. All these factions with their different orientations have joined the process. The General People's Congress in our country represents a form of political coalition which was issued and whose mode of action were defined by the national charter and the political action program of the General People's Congress. Accordingly, the General People's Congress represents the legal political frameowrk through which all our people exercise their right to express themselves.

[Question] Yemeni unity is a hope cherished by all the Yemeni masses in the two parts of Yemen, but its delay has come to constitute a concern for these masses. We wonder: What is the state of this unity march?

[Salih] Reunification of the Yemeni homeland is a major preoccupation for us as Yemenis since we are one people. Before the imam rule was toppled in the north and independence achieved in the south, our people moved between the two parts and met each other without difficulty. Every Yemeni, be he in the north or the south, had the issue of Yemen unity as a major concern. Therefore, people from all walks of life in the two parts of Yemen strove against the imam rule in the north and against colonialism in the south until both departed. Unfortunately, after independence was realized in the southern part of the homeland, movement of the citizens between the two parts was curtailed as a result of the existing state of [word indistinct] and the existence of two entities or states in the Yemeni homeland. Our country has, however, since 1972 and until last year in Ramadan, set about achieving many joint projects and working for unionist action in cooperation with our brothers in the southern part of the homeland. We have achieved important unionist steps that bolstered the march of unionist movement between the two halves, the last of which was agreement to facilitate movement of citizens between the two halves by personal identity cards in addition to the important unionist achievement of the blueprint of the unity state constitution.

There have also been many joint economic unionist projects. God willing, and in cooperation with all our brothers in the south of the homeland, we are on the road of reuniting the homeland and people. We have recently sensed complete understanding and accommodation from our brothers in the southern part of the homeland. There is no room for any hesitance or going back on the principle of achieving the unity of the homeland and people. We think that continued contacts and movement of the citizens between the two parts of the homeland and building joint unionist projects are bound to deepen confidence between the leaderships and masses of the two parts. [passage omitted]

[Question] Many questions have been asked in the wake of the establishement of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], some of which put the creation of the group down to immediate political imperatives. Do you think the Baghdad and Alexandria summits of the ACC laid down strategic foundations for its continuation?

[Salih] As for the ACC, it was not an offspring of the Baghdad or Alexandria summits. Neither did its birth come as a surprise. It was based on a strong rich capital of solid, ideal relations among its four constituent members. It also came as the outcome of effective coordination and mutual confidence and common benefits that had existed among them which led to confidence and a wish to found this new, historic achievement based on economics as a gateway for complementarity among them. [passage omitted]

[Question] We have heard that the southern part of the homeland is seeking membership in the ACC. How true is this report?

[Salih] I personally have not heard about it.

[Question] How do you see the ACC establishment affecting the march of Yemeni unity?

[Salih] There is no connection beteween the establishement of the ACC and the Yemeni unity march, because Yemeni reunification is for us a strategic goal that takes absolute priority, for which we will devote all necessary efforts until it is realized and translated into reality.

[Question] Brother President: Is it possible to build coordination between the ACC and the other existing Arab groupings, like the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union?

[Salih] Relations between these groupings already exist, either bilaterally or within the context of the Arab League. Coordination is already there, and the Arab League is the umbrella that groups all. [passage omitted]

[Question] Brother President: The Palestinian intifadah [uprising] is now entering its 20th month. Don't you think that Arab support for the intifadah falls short of the Palestinian people's sacrifices and their need for the backing of their brothers?

[Salih] The intifadah has won the admiration and respect of all Arab and Islamic masses and world public opinion as well as all peace-loving forces around the world. It also has widespread support among the masses, it being an honorable and just struggle that marks a precedent in all national liberation movements. This is since the Palestinian people are using stones rather than guns, machineguns, RPG's, or any other type of weapon. [passage omitted]

True, Arab support still falls short of the intifadah's requirements. We are duty-bound to support it materially and morally. [passage omitted]

[Question] It is now a full year since the Iraq-Iran cease-fire, with a comprehensive peace still elusive. Do you think the death of Ayatollah Khomeyni will bring this any closer?

[Salih] We hope our brothers in the Iranian leadership will work toward promoting a lasting settlement of this problem and being responsive to whatever efforts are made to find a durable, just, and comprehensive peace in the region through negotiations between the two neighbors to meet the just, legitimate rights of the two sides and secure permanent peace, security, and stability for the region. This will not take place short of complete abidance by UN Security Council Resolution 598 in its proper sequence.

Interior Minister Leaves for Aden 28 Jun

JN2806174089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, minister of interior and member of the Standing Committee, left for Aden at noon today on a visit to the southern part of the homeland which is to last several days within the framework of mutual visits between officials in the two parts of the homeland.

The brother minister clarified in a statement to SABA' news agency that he will discuss with the specialized brothers in the southern part of the homeland coopera-

tion and coordination in the security field, which will serve the unity activity between the two parts. The minister of interior pointed out that during the visit, he will convey a message from brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to the two brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee, and Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, dealing with discussion and coordination of unity steps between the two parts.

Returns 30 Jun

JN3006191689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] Dr 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, interior minister and Standing Committee member, returned to Ta'izz from Aden after visiting the southern part of the homeland and concluding the discussions in Aden between the Interior Ministries of the two parts. These discussions resulted in minutes of the meeting, which included following up the unity agreement approved by the two ministries.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, the brother interior minister described the meetings in Aden between the officials of the Interior Ministries of the two parts of the homeland as positive and successful. He added that the minutes signed organize cooperation between the two ministries. He affirmed the necessity for the joint technical committee consisting of the two parts to select locations for building permament posts as soon as possible to facilitate the movement of citizens between the two parts. The minutes also included a number of issues on the agenda of the meetings.

The brother minister clarified that he had inspected, along with brother Salih Munassir al-Siyayli, deputy prime minister, minister of interior, and Political Bureau member in the southern part of the homeland, the progress of work on the two points of Shurayj and Kirsh. They issued their directives on taking further measures aiming at facilitating the movement and passage of citizens from both parts easily and without hindrance.

Dr 'Abadallah Husayn Barakat, interior minister and member of the Standing Committee, concluded his statement saying: I am carrying an reply message to the brother leader, Colonel Secretary General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, from the two brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee, and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, in the southern part of the homeland in answer to the message I carried to them earlier.

The concluding round of talks between the two ministries of the two parts was concluded last night in Aden.

South Yemeni Delegation Arrives in Sanaa 1 Jul

JN0107183089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Brothers Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, [Yemeni Socialist Party] Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary; Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Central Committee member and minister of state for unity affairs; 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam, minister of justice and awqaf; and Colonel Mutahhar Mus'id Muflih, Central Committee member and deputy interior minister, arrived in Sanaa from the southern part of the homeland this evening on a visit to the northern part of the homeland that will last several days.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, Fadl Muhsin explained that he carries a message to Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Central Committee secretary general. He indicated that the visit aims at consolidating ties between the two leaderships and achieving rapprochement, integration, and cooperation in various fields. He said cooperation has witnessed tangible progress over the past period with results that have begun to be felt in both parts of the homeland.

In this regard, Muhsin indicated that the two leaderships have taken long strides and that this visit falls within the framework of achieving further integration and meetings.

Salih Receives Leaders' Message

JN0207150989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Excerpt] This morning, brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office Brother Fadlu Muhsin 'Abdallah, [Yemeni Socialist Party—YSP] Political Bureau member and YSP Central Committee secretary at the southern part of the homeland. He conveyed to the brother president and leader a message from his brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, [YSP] Central Committee secretary general; and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, Central Committee member and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium at the southern part. The message deals with unity action between the two parts. [passage omitted]

Leaves for Home 4 Jul

JN0407201689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The delegation from the southern part of our homeland headed by Brother Fadlu Muhsin 'Abdallah, [Yemeni Socialist Party—YSP] Political Bureau member and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, left Ta'izz this evening for Aden after a visit to the northern part during which he met with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and a number of officials in our country. [passage omitted]

Reaction to Likud Vote on Shamir's Plan Reported

Levi Welcomes Resolution

TA0507221889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Interview with David Levi, deputy prime minister and housing and construction minister, by Razi Barqay immediately after the Likud Central Committee vote on Shamir's plan at Tel Aviv Fairgrounds on 5 July—live]

[Text] [Barqay] I think Minister David Levi is also pleased with the outcome of the Likud Central Committee session.

[Levi] Certainly. This is a great hour for the Likud and its leadership, which was capable of presenting a message of unity and agreement on the issues which form the basis of the Likud's ideology. If there was speculation or different predictions that a crisis was in the making, that the Likud was shifting gears and drifting elsewhere, that there was a split within its ranks, or any other wrong assessment, the answer came in the form of the Central Committee's meeting, with its show of unity and its closing ranks on the principles which were endorsed unanimously, as you have seen.

[Barqay] Who wrote the prime minister's speech for him?

[Levi] Oh, he writes his own speeches. All we did was sit down and hear him out. Then, together and in agreement, certain additions were appended to it. It was all conducted in a spirit of camaraderie. We ultimately agreed on a formula that consolidated all the proposals that were accepted after being given serious consideration. It was all conducted in an amicable atmosphere.

[Barqay] Mr Levi, we all know that people in the U.S. Embassy sat down, took notes, and immediately translated the speech into English, dispatching it to certain destinations; and that the Americans are very displeased. So tomorrow, following this Central Committee session, it will also be necessary to fight battles away from the home front.

[Levi] Our friendship with the Americans is an important element in our lives. We have done everything in our power, and will continue to do all we can to strengthen it. Yet, it would not enter anyone's mind that our movement would act solely upon the mood—good or foul—of someone else. These are vital issues, matters pertaining to our very survival. For others it is merely one of many issues, perhaps even a serious foreign policy issue; but for us it our lives, our existence, our present and our future.

[Barqay] According to your interpretation of the prime minister's address and the draft resolution which you ultimately endorsed, will a change in any one of the principles that we have recorded require a Central Committee meeting? I understand that the resolution stipulated that the Central Committee ruling obligates the delegates to act according to the principles included in the resolution.

[Levi] That is correct. Since this announcement of the prime minister is clear and unambiguous, and because it was endorsed unanimously, we must all work accordingly. In other words, the resolution is binding on the movement's representatives in the Cabinet and the Knesset. We will operate accordingly, and will not seek any interpretations or arbitration on the matter. We are responsible people. We will closely follow the implementation of this resolution together. It is the source of our strength and our unity.

[Barqay] Thank you, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi.

Shamir Interviewed

TA0507195089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1610 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Razi Barqay at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds following Shamir's address to the Likud Central Committee—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Mr Shamir, we have witnessed some vicissitudes that were really hard to follow. How do you explain these surprising turns that even veterans found hard to follow?

[Shamir] In fact, no vicissitudes occurred here. The Central Committee has resumed its stature. We have known all along that there are no real disagreements among us. The appropriate and correct expression of the issues that unite us had to be found. We, with God's help, have managed to find them today.

[Barqay] Nonetheless, it took a long time and numerous remarks—which, in hindsight, some people might regret making—to reach this common denominator.

[Shamir] Every birth is accompanied by throes. This is how a political process sometimes looks. Sometimes we reach the right solution after long deliberations, and lengthy debates are needed to reach the right and appropriate resolution.

[Barqay] Mr Shamir, what was it that eventually made it possible for this forum of six ministers, including Nisim and Arens, to reach a common denominator?

[Shamir] Our desire to reach one, and the belief—which these debates made even clearer—that, after all, we have nothing to argue about.

[Barqay] Was it your ultimatum that no vote would be held, or was it your agreement to include the four principles that made this resolution possible?

[Shamir] I have already forgotten everything that came before this session.

[Barqay] Now what? Where are you going from here? Will the political initiative enter a more realistic phase?

[Shamir] I hope that the initiative will now enter realistic phases. Now we can hold negotiations without having hesitations.

[Barqay] Mr Prime Minister, sharp exchanges took place among all of you in the past few days. Can we now speak of a new atmosphere, a better feeling from now on?

[Shamir] Undoubtedly. You could witness the celebrating audience here at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds and understand the extent to which remarks that were made only several hours ago are at present gone and forgotten.

[Barqay] Was it not possible to hold the recent weeks' debates differently and perhaps reach this common denominator earlier?

[Shamir] To tell the truth, I was certain we would reach a common denominator, and I am glad we did today.

[Barqay] Mr Prime Minister, does the resolution damage or diminish the government resolution in any way?

[Shamir] I believe it contains nothing that could sabotage the government resolution or contradict it. We saw to it.

[Barqay] Can the reinforcements—those additional four principles you included in your speech, which are now part and parcel of the Likud-approved resolution—be acceptable to your partners in the government, mainly the Alignment?

[Shamir] I spoke of several principles, all of which are not new for us and do not contrast with the contents of the initiative.

[Barqay] Mr Prime Minister, I would still like to refer to the political issue. Do you have a more precise estimate as to when the political initiative will start moving?

[Shamir] It is hard to tell when it will happen. Primarily I believe that the intensive talks held with the PLO in Tunisia are holding up the negotiations. The less effort is directed toward these attempts, and the more our friends concentrate on the more moderate elements that are in the picture at present, the faster we will reach true negotiations.

[Barqay] A clause that you added to your statement here says that the resolution taken is binding on all the Likud representatives in the government and the Knesset. Is this not a restrictive element?

[Shamir] There is no restriction whatsoever; just the opposite. I had believed even before we agreed to add this clause—and it was added to make a point clear—that we are following the same path and we have to take it together. We are not soloists.

[Barqay] These past few days witnessed some sharp remarks. What effect did this have on the inner workings of the Likud?

[Shamir] I hope that today's enthusiasm will erase all remnants of those things that could have hurt someone. I hope that no scars will be left.

[Barqay] Mr Prime Minister, I would like to return to the closed session that preceded your speech. Was the feeling there tense?

[Shamir] You must not forget that it was just this session that brought the process of the full internal agreement to an end. The atmosphere was good, to the point, and very serious.

[Barqay] After several stormy days for you and the Likud, I would like to thank you.

[Shamir] Thank you.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1620 GMT on 5 July carries another live interview with Prime Minister Shamir by Dan Shilon and Goni Mardor in the studio, and Yaron Kulas at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. Asked about agreement with the Labor Party on the additional four points, Shamir says that on the issue of Jerusalem "there is a government resolution, which is still in effect, saying that the Arab residents of East Jerusalem could not participate in elections on the autonomy." Shamir adds that on the issue of settlements "I followed the government guidelines to the letter. As for the issues of foreign sovereignty and settlements, we have disagreements which we have never ignored." Asked about the responses in the United States, Shamir says: "I have maintained a dialogue with them for many years now. They know me inside out. I believe that there was nothing today that would surprise them."]

Ari'el Sharon Comments

TA0507190189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1610 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Dan Shilon and Goni Mardor in the IDF Radio studio, and Yaron Kulas at the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds, upon the conclusion of the Likud Central Committee meeting on 5 July—live]

[Text] [Kulas] Minister Sharon, the Likud Central Committee session was shorter than expected. Why was it necessary to have the entire argument during all the weeks preceding this session? This has not enhanced the Likud's honor, after all.

[Sharon] I think that the argument has enhanced our movement's honor. It showed that this is a political movement, with a Central Committee that has deep political awareness. It showed that an argument takes place when a key national issue is at stake. Where would you find in any political body in Israel today an argument such as that which has taken place here in recent weeks? I would say you do not see the likes of such an argument in the entire Western world today, in all Western democracies. I think this brought much honor to the movement and certainly led the Central Committee to give binding guidelines to its members in the government and in the Knesset, guidelines that will have to be followed on the most vital issues of our lives: the liquidation of violence and terror prior to any political negotiations; as for Jerusalem—a clear statement that the East Jerusalem Arabs will not participate in the elections; a clear determination on continued settlement; and a clear declaration that Eretz Yisra'el will not be partitioned any longer, that no foreign sovereignty will exist here, and no Palestinian state will emerge.

[Kulas] According to these principles, from now on, will you support the plan which was approved in the government and in the Knesset, in fact? Do you support this plan?

[Sharon] Look, as for my position on the plan: I made clear...

[Kulas, interrupting] You said it is extremely dangerous. Will you now support it, following the Central Committee's decision?

[Sharon] This plan is dangerous; I made this clear...

[Shilon, interrupting] You said it was extremely dangerous.

[Sharon] I am not changing my mind. I made this clear. I think that most of the Cabinet members too see a lot of risks in this plan. What I achieved here, in my opinion, is neutralizing some of the risks by the decisions and binding principles which were adopted by the Central Committee.

[Shilon] Perhaps they will also [word indistinct] to national unity?

[Sharon] We are today engaged in problems of existence. We are today dealing with the existence of a nation, with the safety of Jews. This is more important for me than anything else. I do not think that this should harm our national unity.

[Mardor] At any event, national unity is less important to you today, is it not?

[Sharon] National unity to me is a tool. The important matter to me is the existence and safety of Jews in Eretz Yisra'el, and this comes before anything else. I think that today, the decision of the Central Committee—one could also see the enthusiasm of the committee members when these issues were brought up and mentioned—will certainly prevent a large number of these dangers.

[Shilon] Mr Sharon, in the first part of his speech the prime minister discussed the achievements already made in the actual presentation of the initiative, and said that the world, mainly the United States, took a very positive view of this initiative. Will this speech, will the acceptance of the principles which were adopted under your influence and which were part of this speech by the prime minister, not annul the achievements of which the prime minister was talking?

[Sharon] No, I think that the acceptance of these principles will only strengthen Israel's position. In my opinion, the element we have been missing so far is what, in the final analysis, are our red lines? What is the limit of the concessions we are prepared to make? I think that clear statements and decisions were made on this matter today. I think that it is very important to make clear to Israel's friends, and the United States is the biggest of them all, what Israel can and cannot do.

[Shilon] Minister Sharon, thank you very much.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 5 July airs another interview with Minister Sharon upon the conclusion of the Central Committee vote, in which he asserts: "I have announced already, and let me repeat, the Central Committee will convene frequently, even on a monthly basis if necessary, in order to follow up the implementation of the guidelines the committee gave to Likud members in the Cabinet and in the Knesset"]

Moda'i Interviewed

TA0507221589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1630 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Interview with Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by Yaron Deqel at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, and Dan Shilon at the studio, upon the conclusion of the Likud Central Committee meeting—live]

[Text] [Deqel] We now have with us Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i. Mr Moda'i, do you believe that the unity government can still go on functioning in its present lineup after the Likud Central Committee resolution?

[Moda'i] It undoubtedly can. We know that we will reach a certain stage in the process of negotiations where our roads will diverge. If it is true that the Alignment wants to allow the Arab residents of East Jerusalem to participate in the elections, or that it is willing to hold the elections under a reign of terror, our ways will have to part then. In the meantime this is not my position.

[Deqel] Can we now expect the three of you to stop criticizing the government initiative?

[Moda'i] We have criticized the initiative only for what it lacked, not for what it contained. Now that it is complete, we have no more criticism of it.

[Deqel] Still, this is not a government resolution.

[Moda'i] What difference does that make? You must have noticed that the prime minister forgot a certain clause of the resolution. I reminded him of it and he rose and added: The prime minister's resolution proposal and the principles added to it are binding on the Likud Knesset and government members.

[Shilon] Mr Moda'i, we asked the prime minister a short while ago whether after what took place this evening in the Central Committee he will still take steps against this or other minister. His answer was: Do you expect me, at this euphoric moment, to answer you on this matter. Meaning, he did not say no, nor did he say yes. What do you think?

[Moda'i] Why should you ask me such a silly question?

[Shilon] What is so silly about it? Remarks such as this were made recently.

[Moda'i] They were made indeed, but not by the prime minister. They were made by his associates, as this they are called. The prime minister, when the rumor reached him denied having any such intention. If there had been any doubt, there is no such doubt now whatsoever.

Labor Secretary Assessment

TA0507181489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Now, to a first reaction by the Labor Party. Party Secretary Mikha Harish has released a statement saying Prime Minister Shamir has surrendered to the dictates of Ari'el Sharon. The Labor Party secretary says if today's speech by the prime minister is an indication of how he will proceed in the peace process, the Labor Party will be unable to continue to serve in the government.

Shamir Calls on Labor Not To Quit Cabinet

TA0607165389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1630 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening called on the Alignment not to quit the Cabinet. A message on his behalf says that such a step would not serve the state or the people who make this decision. Shamir added that the situation prevailing today entails a national unity government and does not justify breaking up the government or holding elections. He promised that the Israeli peace initiative will remain in existence, and that the Likud—which considers itself obligated to make every effort to bring about peace—is bound to uphold it.

Shamir noted that there is no way to put an end to the conflict without a serious Likud involvement, and that the United States is also aware of this fact. They know the Likud's principles, Shamir said.

Shamir Tells U.S. Envoy Initiative Unchanged

TA0607173389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today told U.S. Ambassador William Brown that the political initiative exists in the format endorsed by the Israeli Government and that no changes have been introduced to it.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr Shamir met with the U.S. ambassador and heard from him that the Washington stand says that as long as the Israeli Government does not introduce changes to the political initiative, as far as Washington is concerned, it still holds.

More on Peace Process, Coalition Maneuvering

TA0607195489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister and the foreign minister today made efforts to convince the United States, Egypt, and the European countries that Israel's peace initiative has not changed as a result of the Likud Central Committee's resolution. They made this clear in meetings in Jerusalem with the ambassadors of these countries. The prime minister also explained today that despite the Likud's decision, talks with Palestinians from the territories will continue independently of the continuation of the intifadah [uprising]. U.S. sources reported today that the Likud's resolution may affect U.S. efforts to persuade the PLO to support the peace initiative. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports on the political developments:

To prove that the Likud's decision did not change the peace initiative one bit, the prime minister will step up his political activity as of now, including by meetings with Palestinians. This was promised by Yitzhaq Shamir's office today. His office has not yet calmed down from last night's events. And as if to signal to the world and the Labor Party that his intentions are sincere, Shamir's office announced today that regardless of last night's Likud resolution, contacts with Palestinians from the territories will go on irrespective of the continuation of the intifadah, as they do not constitute official negotiations.

On the other hand, the defense minister, the prime minister's chief partner to the peace initiative, told his associates today that the only interpretation of the Likud's resolution is that no political process would be launched prior to the elimination of the intifadah. This is unacceptable, said Rabin. A senior source in Shim'on Peres' office said: The Cabinet's days are numbered.

Yet Shamir must mollify both Rabin and the Alignment as well as the United States. He did that even today, in a meeting with the U.S. ambassador, during which he informed Ambassador Brown that there is no change in the initiative. The ambassador promptly replied that officially the peace initiative still exists, as long as the Cabinet has not changed it. Yet already this evening, an initial report has arrived from the United States saying that State Department officials maintain that there is a danger that U.S. efforts to convince the PLO and the Palestinians to accept the peace initiative may now run into a brick wall.

Shamir's associates believe that the Alignment will not secede from the government. They note that the real confrontation between Shamir and Ari'el Sharon will take place soon, when the Cabinet is forced to adopt practical resolution to promote the election initiative.

Paper Says Likud Decision Closes Doors to Peace

TA0607144789 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Jul 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Shamir: The Elections Are an End, Not a Means"]

[Text] During his recent visit to Washington and after proposing to the U.S. Administration the concept of holding elections in the occupied Palestinian territories, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that "all doors are open to negotiation over all issues." Yesterday at the Likud Party Central Committee meeting, Shamir closed all the doors. Amid the applause of his supporters and opponents he affirmed that there is no room for participation by Jerusalem's Palestinian residents in the elections, because Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital; that there is no possibility of sovereignty over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip except Israeli sovereignty; that there will not be even any talk about PLO participation in the peace process; that settlement in the occupied territories will continue; and that the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will not be allowed. In addition to all this, the Israeli prime minister called on the U.S. Administration to stop its dialogue with the PLO.

For many weeks now we have been hearing about differences between the Likud Party factions and about the voting for Shamir's initiative, and that of Moda'i, Levi, and Sharon. Then the day of the meeting arrived and Shamir repeated his no's before the party's Central Committee members in such a way that it was not necessary to hold a vote. The price for maintaining the Likud's unity was closing the door to the peace process; this was also the price for establishing the Israeli unity government between the Labor Party and the Likud.

Now that the outlines and dimensions of the Israeli prime minister's initiative have become clear in the most unambiguous manner, what can we expect from the administration of U.S. President George Bush, especially when the U.S. State Department is making intensive efforts to persuade the PLO and the Arab states to accept the concept of elections and is telling them that this is an initial step that will ultimately be linked to application of the principle of land in return for peace.

What about the reaction of Egypt, which has put forward 10 conditions to the Israeli Government for accepting the elections concept, all of which were rejected in Shamir's speech? And will Shamir's noes affect his party's relations with the Labor Party, his partner in the unity government? The Likud Central Committee position contradicts the Labor Party's official and proclaimed position.

Shamir's speech has affirmed that the concept of holding elections in the occupied territories is an alternative plan to the international, Arab, and Palestinian tendencies that call for the establishment of peace on the basis of withdrawal from the occupied territories. Consequently, it substitutes the principle of "land in return for peace" with the principle of "elections in return for peace."

In other words, the elections according to Shamir's viewpoint are an end in themselves and not a procedural step aimed at launching the peace process. At any rate, in the wake of this clarity in Shamir's position, the U.S. Administration must hasten to announce a clear and definitive position. Either it should respond positively to and join the international tendencies, or it should continue its partnership with Israel in confronting all the efforts made to advance the peace process.

Commentary Analyzes Likud Vote, Power Struggle

TA0607164489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 89 p 1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's political position was weakened yesterday after he was forced to incorporate the political "barrel hoops"—demanded by his opponents, Ministers Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i—into the statement endorsed by the Likud Central Committee yesterday. Although the decision does not obligate the government—and although, thanks to David Levi, Shamir managed to soften the opposition's demands on several issues—there is no doubt that Shamir added different clauses and details to his speech and to the Likud statement that he himself regarded as unnecessary, and even occasionally detrimental. Indeed, Shamir vehemently opposed them for a whole month.

Shamir managed to limit the damage to the political initiative only on a small number of issues. He rejected, for example, the demand by the three ministers to bring the political process to a total halt until the intifadah [uprising] is stopped. Instead it was stated that the dialogue with the United States will continue, even if contacts with the Arabs are cut off.

Two developments which became clear over the last few days enabled 'Uzi Landau to pursue his mediation efforts, which were begun at the parliamentary level by Likud Knesset Members Binyamin Begin and Mikha'el Eytan, and bring Shamir and his rivals to the decisive meeting only scant moments before the Likud Central Committee convention was due to start. The first of these developments was Shamir's anger at the United States for upgrading its dialogue with the PLO. Shamir feared that a strong battle between Sharon and himself would encourage Washington to continue inching toward Yasir 'Arafat. The first signs of a certain change in Shamir's position in protest over the U.S. moves already became evident 2 days ago when Minister Roni Milo approached Sharon, Moda'i, and Levi to learn the contents of the compromise proposal.

The second development came when Shamir realized that unless he reaches an agreement with Sharon he will have no procedural tool with which to impose a single vote on his opponents, a demand he has been making all along. He believed that if a second vote were held, this one on the four hoops, the three ministers would gain a victory. Yesterday Shamir made a last-minute effort to obtain the opinion of the Likud legal adviser stating that only a single vote can be held. This, however, fell on deaf ears. Some of Shamir's followers admitted in private conversations that they were embarrassed to witness the haste with which Shamir gave up on his position and rushed to make an agreement, as long as he could prevent a double vote.

Yesterday's events at the Likud Central Committee meeting provided the three ministers with a certain legitimacy to act in the future against the government's moves concerning the initiative. As they had not been punished so far for breaching their collective responsibility by undermining an authorized government resolution, they could not be punished in the future. Not after the Likud Central Committee approved their "hoops" as well.

The prime minister has acquired the dangerous image of one who fears having decisions made through a vote. This might work against him if he budges only slightly from the "hoops" he accepted yesterday to avoid an embarrassing vote, at least until the next round—scheduled to take place in a few weeks—is held.

Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens will continue their contacts with the United States in a business-as-usual manner. They hope that the United States will prefer to ignore the Likud resolution for the time being, and advise the Palestinians to do the same (loud Alignment opposition to the Likud resolution—which Shamir will not attempt to ratify at the Cabinet—will help him in his own party to a certain extent). Shamir and Arens' basic assumption is that a political clash with the United States over its contacts with the PLO is expected anyway. According to a report originating from the three ministers (and Shamir said he has not heard of it), one of his associates objected to a clause suggested by Moda'i. It was Shamir, however, who hushed him up, and accepted the extreme addition without a word.

The political weak spot at present is the participation of the East Jerusalem Arabs in the elections. The Shamir-Arens camp does not rule out the possibility of having to compromise on this issue during negotiations. After last night's vote, however, Shamir's position is all the more complicated. There are serious doubts as to his ability to make such concessions without getting the approval of the Likud Central Committee, which is headed by Sharon.

The general assumption in the Likud is that the internal campaign is at a preliminary stage which is inevitable unless a total change occurs in Shamir's position that results in a rift with the United States and with the major partner in the government.

Arens Tells Egypt Initiative 'Strengthened'

TA0707045889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has informed Egypt that Israel will continue to further the peace initiative, which—according to Arens—was strengthened following the unanimous decision made by the Likud Central Committee to support it. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Arens delivered a verbal message in this spirit to Egyptian President Mubarak, in the course of a meeting with Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel.

The foreign minister made similar statements during a meeting with the representatives of the seven industrialized countries. He asked for their help in rehabilitating the refugee camps, and in persuading the Arab states to support the peace initiative.

UK Sources: Likud Changes in Plan 'Backward Step'

TA0707044289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Official sources in Britain have indicated to our London correspondent Jerry Lewis that if the elements set out by Prime Minister Shamir at the Likud Central Committee are to be enshrined in the government's initiative, the British Government would regard this as a backward step. The sources said as far as Britain is concerned, there has been no change in the Israeli position, and as long as the plan endorsed by the Cabinet still exists, Britain welcomes the proposals.

Shamir: Logic Will Prevail, Unity Will Continue

TA0707060889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan on 6 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] I do not think that this will complicate our relations with the United States. The leaders of the

United States are quite familiar with the Likud's ideological principles, and they also realize that the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be resolved without the Likud's serious and central involvement.

[Golan] Mr Shamir, the left-wing segment of the Labor Party has been calling since yesterday for the party's resignation from the government. They claim that the Central Committee's decision constitutes a severe blow to the peace initiative. Defense Minister Rabin, as well, says that it is necessary to wait several weeks to see whether the peace initiative will survive. Are you worried that the Labor Party might quit the government?

[Shamir] Well, I cannot say anything as to what the Labor Party may decide. It is not news that there are many elements in that party that were against participating in the unity government from the very beginning. They completely opposed the formation of the unity government. In time they were joined by people who considered it more advisable that the Labor Party be out of the government, so as not to share responsibility for all the problems facing the State of Israel today. Therefore, it is possible that a majority may vote for such a step. In my opinion such an action would not be in anyone's interest—not the country as a whole, and not those who would decide on such a step. I believe that the Israeli public is convinced that the situation in which we find ourselves today—the security situation, the economic and political situation—demands a government of national unity, and does not currently justify the breakup of the government and a call for some kind of election, or other adventures.

That is why I think that logic will ultimately prevail and this will not happen.

[Golan] And the initiative will continue?

[Shamir] Of course the initiative will continue, just as it continues today. We will try to act in the spirit of the initiative in order to implement it and make it a reality.

[Golan] Thank you Mr Prime Minister.

Shamir 'Committed' to Initiative; Comments on Schools

TA0707103089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he is committed to the peace initiative. He said the initiative has not lost momentum, and he is daily making every effort to further it.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr Shamir made these statements to a group of Catholic bishops currently visiting Israel.

The bishops asserted that each party to the conflict perceives the other as a monster. Shamir replied by saying that to our chagrin we witness the monstrous actions of the terrorists every day.

Shamir also addressed the issue of reopening the schools in the territories. Shamir said that the Palestinian residents must make sure that the schools do not become breeding grounds for violence, and that students will not hurl stones from within the schools. Shamir said that this is what happens when the schools are open.

11 Dead in Bus Incident; Arab Said Responsible

TA0607110389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] An Egged bus traveling along the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway went off the shoulder of the road and rolled down into the ravine. Passengers were hurt. More than 10 ambulances were rushed to the scene and the road was closed. [passage omitted]

We have an open telephone line to our correspondent Uri Paz, who is at the scene:

[Paz] Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev, perhaps you could tell us what is known about the attack?

[Bar-Lev] What we know so far is that a passenger, apparently an Arab resident from the territories traveling from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, approached the driver and talked to him. He then grabbed the steering wheel, causing the bus to skid, turn over, and go up in flames. Our primary concern at the moment is evacuating the casualties to the hospital. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 6 July adds that the police commissioner has said that "of the 34 people who were injured, 11 are dead. Attempts are currently being made to turn the bus upright to determine whether additional passengers may be trapped within."]

Parties Submit No-Confidence Motions

TA0607121789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The Tehiya faction calls on the prime minister to look into the possibility of either establishing a narrow-based government or of holding elections, in view of what it calls the Alignment threats. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the Tehiya statement says that the Alignment is issuing empty threats, because it does not have a national majority for its political plan.

The Tehiya and Moledet factions have decided to submit motions of no-confidence in the government in the wake of today's terrorist attack on a bus and as a result of the failed struggle against the intifadah [uprising].

Shamir Comments

TA0607113789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1112 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Avi Got on 6 July—recorded]

[Text] [Got] Shalom, Prime Minister Shamir. Like us, you too have heard about the serious accident on the road to Jerusalem. What is your reaction to it?

[Shamir] It is a horrendous disaster. It is a murderous act perpetrated by a man with a sick mind, brimming with hatred. This sets a new record of madness, stemming from hatred nurtured by incessant instigation. It is very difficult to prevent such actions, but everything must be done to strike at these murderers and those who dispatched them.

[Got] According to the initial reports, it seems it was a solitary terrorist who perpetrated the attack. Do you think he was indeed operating on his own or did someone send him on a mission?

[Shamir] I cannot tell at this point. I understand that his interrogation still has not yielded anything. Still, it does not make much difference whether this is the outcome of a plan by some group or the result of the atmosphere that has been created by groups of men. We must recognize who walks among us and how to handle them.

[Got] The public and certainly the families of the victims must be very frightened by this terrible disaster. Would you like to send any message to the public or the families in light of this catastrophe?

[Shamir] With all my heart, I grieve with the families. I wish a speedy recovery to the injured. I think we will find the way to deal with such incidents in order to stop them or limit their number to the extent possible.

[Got] Thank you very much, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Peres on 'Appropriate Lessons'

TA0607123489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1208 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Avi Got on 6 July—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] This was an attack on human beings. Naturally, the entire nation is united in grief. This is a serious disaster; we had no idea about it. No one could have imagined that such a thing could happen. I understand that the person who perpetrated the act is in our hands, that he is in fact seriously injured. We must find out whether he had accomplices or whether he operated alone.

For now, unfortunately, I can only express my sympathy with the families who have lost their dear ones, and send wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured.

[Got] I presume many people in Israel, those who travel by bus and more so their relatives, would like to be reassured that the well-being of public transportation passengers can be guaranteed. Do you think that the Cabinet or the security forces will take extra measures to prevent the recurrence of such cases?

[Peres] Lessons must be drawn from every incident, and I am sure that the appropriate lessons will be drawn from this one as well. There is no doubt in my mind that there are measures that could prevent the recurrence of such incidents. This, perhaps, is the most pressing mission: to prevent such incidents from happening again in the future.

Ministers Condemn Attack

TA0607130789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1236 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] A few minutes ago, Gay Rolnik heard the reaction of Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to the bus attack:

[Begin Arens recording] To my deep regret, every one of us—and certainly those who hold state positions—are being called upon to issue a reaction. But what can one actually say about such atrocious terrorist acts beyond expressing your deepest pain and anguish at these losses? It simply reminds us of the war we are in, the violence, viciousness, brutality, and fanaticism we face and which we must overcome if we want to guarantee security and, ultimately, peace. [end recording]

I have just been handed the text of the president's reaction: The tragic incident in which innocent, peaceful civilians were killed by assassins came even as we are embroiled in daily arguments and disputes. This serves as a reminder that the fight against terrorism for our existence on our land is not yet over, says the president. Let us unite as one nation and one family during these hard times, as our hearts grieve with the families who have lost their loved ones, and with the injured. Let us draw strength from our faith in the justness of our path and in our ability to overcome this and march forward.

And another reaction: Those who fight against us by methods such as we saw in today's attack are not fighting for Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, but for the entire country. They want to drive us out, Justice Minister Dan Meridor said a short while ago in reaction to the attack. Our mission today is to fight against people who may have adopted a political tactic, but whose goal is still to liquidate the State of Israel, said Dan Meridor.

The CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] faction in the Knesset strongly condemned the attack on the bus traveling to Jerusalem, and sends its sympathies to the families of the dead, along with wishes to the injured for

a speedy recovery. The CRM says that this is one of the more gruesome attacks, which every human being abhors. The CRM's announcement further states that when the gates of peace are gradually being closed, the peephole of hostility opens for the dark forces of fanaticism to carry out their vile schemes.

Shinuy expressed deep shock at the horrendous attack and shares the grief of the bereaved families. It demands that the Palestinian leaders in the PLO and the territories condemn the despicable murder and publicly call for an immediate end to the bloody acts.

Death Toll Rises to 14

TA0607132089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1313 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] According to the latest count provided by the police commissioner, there are 14 dead and 27 injured in the bus attack on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway. Seven are seriously injured, five sustained moderate injuries, and three are even more moderately injured. Twelve are suffering from slight injuries.

Labor Meeting Postponed

TA0607135289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1336 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The Labor Party Central Committee, which was expected to convene to discuss the Likud Central Committee resolutions, has postponed its session in light of the attack on the bus. The Labor Central Committee members stood at attention for 1 minute to commemorate the victims, and sent wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Shim'on Peres delivered a short speech, saying that what happened in the Likud Central Committee yesterday is that one party decided to dictate to the Cabinet a policy different than what had previously been decided upon. The Labor bodies must therefore draw the necessary conclusion from the new situation.

'Peace Now' Condemns Attack

TA0607172189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Following are some more comments on today's bus attack: National Religious Party Minister Avner Sciaki calls for imposing capital punishment on murderers and to declare war to the bitter end against the terror organizations, the PLO included. He told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the government must discuss ways of struggling with the intifadah [uprising] until one is found to quell it.

The Peace Now movement expresses its shock at the horrendous act, and calls on the residents of Israel to increase their alertness in the face of mad criminals who drive us all down the abyss. The movement calls on Palestinian leaders in the territories to condemn the attack. [passage omitted]

Likud Minister Roni Milo believes that in its next session on Sunday the government should decide to demand that the United States stop all negotiations with the PLO. This is due to the PLO's continued support for terror.

Bethlehem Mayor Comments

TA0707043589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has condemned the bus attack. He spoke to reporter Shlomo Berger:

[Begin Frayj recording] I think from this tragic incident the leaders in this area must learn a lesson, and the lessons is: There is no option but to have peaceful coexistence, with peace reigning in this holy land.

The acts of action and reaction of hatred, which is poisoning the atmosphere in this area, is going to create more calamities and more suffering for all people, and usually innocent people become victims of this circle of violence.

So I hope and pray that the leaders in Israel, the leaders in the Arab camp, will have the courage to come to a comprehensive peace settlement. [end recording]

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack

JN0707102289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] In Amman, the Islamic Jihad Organization today implicitly claimed responsibility for the Israeli bus incident in which 14 people were killed and 27 others were injured. A statement received by the AFP office in Amman said the mujahidin blows will continue so that the entire world will recognize the Palestinian people's determination to live on this land.

U.S. Said 'Responsible' for Deportation Policy

TA0607043589 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jun 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "America and Deportation"]

[Text] Yesterday the United States criticized the deportation of eight residents from the occupied territories to Lebanon. The U.S. State Department summoned the Israeli ambassador in Washington to express the U.S. Administration's "concern" over such a step, which senior U.S. officials described as representing an obstacle to peace efforts in the region.

Early this month, Lawrence Eagleburger summoned Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador in Washington, and informed him that the Bush administration will not remain silent about any acts of deportation by Israel against Palestinians.

In New York, the UN secretary general expressed his strong indignation over the Israeli step and called on the Israeli authorities to return the deportees to their homes.

In the final communique of the EEC summit in Madrid, the Western countries criticized the Israeli policies pursued in the occupied territories and called for an end to such policies, because they are inconsistent with the peace efforts being exerted in the region.

Yet despite all this international criticism and warnings, Israel yesterday deported eight residents on the grounds of membership in the Unified National Leadership. Moreover, there are no signs that Israel intends to halt such measures. This is confirmed by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's request that the attorney general facilitate future acts of deportation.

Thus, Israel's implementation of the deportation decision despite all this international criticism proves the ineffectiveness of such timid criticism, which can be added to the long list of futile rhetorical rebukes.

It is worth noting that Israel's implementation of the deportation process, without paying the slightest heed to international criticism and U.S. "warnings," is the outcome of the very policy being pursued by the U.S. Administration in the region and which provides complete cover in the UN Security Council for all Israeli measures in the occupied territories.

While holding the U.S. Administration fully responsible for Israel's deportation of the eight residents to Lebanon, we call on the Security Council and its five permanent member states to act quickly in order to return the deportees to their homes and induce the Israeli authorities to halt this policy.

Poll: Majority Favor Shamir Election Initiative

TA0407125589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jul 89 pp A1, 2

[Text] The research institute of Modi'in Ezrahi, under the management of Dr Rahel Yisre'eli, studied in the second and third weeks of June 1989 the public's views on the Shamir initiative for elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Some 60 percent of Israel's inhabitants support the initiative while 40 percent oppose it. Shamir's initiative is acceptable to the great majority of those who vote for the left-wing bloc in the Knesset and to some two-thirds of voters for the two large parties. The level of support among voters for the right-wing and religious blocs is significantly lower.

The poll was conducted through personal interviews among a national sample of 1,186 respondents who represent the adult Jewish population in Israel, excluding residents of kibbutzim, and Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Percent of—	Total Sample	Alignment Voters	Likud Voters	Left Voters	Right Voters	Religious Voters
Definitely Yes/Yes	60	66	60	85	45	46
No/Certainly Not	40	34	40	15	55	54

Poll Finds Swing To Right Since Uprising

TA0407125789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jul 89 p 2

[Report by Arnon Ben-Nahum]

[Text] Findings from a June poll by the Institute for Policy Planning in Israel-Diaspora Relations at Tel Aviv University show that there has been a significant swing to the right among the public since the start of the intifadah [uprising].

Some 46 percent of Israelis believe that Israel is too democratic while 74 percent believe that a tougher policy should be adopted in quelling the uprising. In the summer of 1987, before the intifadah broke out, only 36 percent believed that Israel was too democratic.

The poll encompassed a representative sample of 1,200, and for research purposes two groups were distinguished: "liberals"—made up of Ashkenazim, better educated, and nonreligious people; and "conservatives"—people with little education, religious, and traditional from an Eastern background. A study by Dr Ari'el Karmon, Prof Efra'im Ya'ar, and Prof Yohanan Peres, found that twice as many conservatives (56 percent) than liberals (28 percent) believe that Israel is too democratic.

On the intifadah, 87 percent of conservatives believe in a tougher policy, compared to 50 percent among liberals. Only 7 percent of conservatives support a more lenient policy compared to 23 percent of liberals.

Idnah Youth Killed in Army Search of Village

TA0207131889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] A youth from the village of Idnah in the Hebron Hills was killed today. Our correspondent Arye Gus cites military sources in reporting that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit was conducting searches in the village when it encountered hostile opposition. The boy's death was reported later. Our correspondent adds that his body was snatched. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the youth's death.

No IDF Injuries in Security Zone Explosion

TA0307142789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] An explosive device went off in the central sector of the security zone in South Lebanon when an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol was passing there. No one was hurt. Our military correspondent Roni Daniyel reports that the charge exploded near the village of Marun al-Ra's.

Gaza Resident Killed; W. Bank Jew Stoned

TA0407185289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] A resident of al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was killed in a firing incident today. The dead person is Isma'il Wahil al-'Ul, a 20 year old. His body was transferred to the Gaza hospital from which it was snatched by his family members. The family members buried the body before the security forces had managed to investigate the circumstances of the incident. A curfew was imposed on al-Nusayrat refugee camp following the incident.

A Qiryat Arba' resident, Yeruham Levit, 45, was injured in a stoning incident near al-Duhayshah refugee camp. He was transferred to the Hadassah-'En-Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem.

King, Queen Depart for London 6 Jul

JN0607122989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur left Amman at noon today for London on a private visit to the United Kingdom. His Majesty King Husayn is to meet with senior British Government officials and give numerous lectures, and undergo some medical checkups. His majesty is accompanied on the trip by His Highness Prince Muhammad, the king's personal representative and Her Higness Princess Taghrid.

On hand to see their majesties off at the airport were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and a number of the members of the Hashemite household and senior state officials as well as other civilian and military officers.

With the ministerial team in attendance, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan gave the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn as his deputy throughout his presence abroad.

Husayn Speaks on Trip, Domestic Issues 6 Jul

JN0607181889 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Speech by Jordanian King Husayn on 6 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O brothers, kinfolk, and beloved ones; O fellow citizens—the asset and supporter: May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. Happy returns.

Now then, I address you on the eve of the feast of redemption and sacrifice with my heartfelt love and feelings. You are the community that is united by fraternity, the tribe glorified by pride and greatness, and the kinfolk from whom we derive our joy, pride, and everything good in our life, thanks to your aspirations and achievements. Our homeland's and our destiny calls on us to stand together in this homeland in the march of steadfastness, building, and confrontation. We are honored by the position and stance, and this honor requires continuous readiness for sacrifice and deep concern for giving and sacrifice.

As the words bear what is in the heart and the letters interpret the feelings, this blessed occasion ['Id al-Adha] makes it hard for the letters and words. I hoped that I could visit every house, press on every hand, and exchange with every member in this community the heartfelt congratulations and wishes. However, many prior engagements deprive me of being among you now and prevent me from remaining next to you on these blessed days. Some of these engagements are required by prior appointments for periodical medical examinations. I hope that you will be fully confident and reassured that your Husayn is well and that his health, praise be to God, is as you hope and as he wishes for every individual in this faithful Jordanian community.

With regard to the other engagements, they are required by political activities distributed among contacts, lectures, and meetings for the well-being of the homeland, this nation, and the interest of its national causes. And despite all this, I carry you in my heart and inspire from you joy and assistance, whether the distance between us is short in the homeland or long because of a short absence or a working visit that lasts a few days outside the homeland.

Brothers, kinfolk, and beloved ones: While I am leaving on this short trip, I am most reassured about the safety of the march. No distance shall us part. I will continue to follow up and monitor all that takes place in our national arena. The government granted our confidence and whose duties, specified in our letter of designation, continue to translate our people's aspirations into deeds and acomplishments. It has finished the required amendments in the electoral law and will begin preparations for general elections through which our people will chose those who will be considered qualified for holding the trust and ready for fulfilling it in all that brings welfare to Jordan and its people.

This government has begun to confront the requirements of the new stage to achieve administrative development, place the right person in the right place, and provide all requirements of security, peace of mind, and mutual respect between officials and citizens. We are now sponsoring the noble undertaking of drawing a national charter based on respecting and maintaining the Constitution and on our people's hopes and national aspirations within the framework of the principles and ends of the Great Arab Revolt.

This government is exerting sincere efforts with a maximum degree of awareness and quietness to confront the challenges and obstacles and establish bases of development, self-sufficiency, social justice, and the principle of participation and distributing the burden and effort through a more fair taxation system; encouraging the spirit of initiative, action, and innovation; and realizing the achievements all of us are looking forward to in the fields of culture, education, agriculture, and maintaining the environment.

On the pan-Arab level, this government, supported by myself and you, will continue to crystallize and implement all the noble and precious objectives that stood behind the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council. In this trustworthy country, we realize well the close cohesion between our national objectives and our pan-Arab objectives. We will remain very keen to maintain this cohesion in all that is related to the causes of Jordan and the Arab homeland. We will remain faithful to the aspirations of our people and nation. We will continue to support it and its causes, especially our primary cause,

the Palestine question, with which we maintained an intimate relationship since the eruption of our Great Revolt and will continue to maintain until rights are restored to their owners on their national soil.

Brothers, kinfolk, and beloved ones: Throughout our victorious march in this country, our fate has been to confront successive challenges. Our successive victories over hardships and challenges are testimony of our ability to hold fast and confront, as well as of the soundness of our march and of the huge dangers that were aimed to besiege our country because we did not bargain over our rights or pride and did not surrender to faleshood or humiliation. We were and continue to be men of resolve in confronting hardships.

We thank God that my people and I have won out through our national belonging and pan-Arab loyalty. Obstacles have not succeeded in undermining our will, nor have difficulties and challenges managed to affect our decision making. No country or people have come under so much pressure, attempts at blackmail, or even inducements as has Jordan. However, thanks be to God, we have proved stronger than pressures, withstood blackmail, and now our feet are firm on the ground and we are holding our heads high. Even campaigns of casting doubt that have targeted me personally, as well as my family, have in effect brought to light one thing, and that is the bankruptcy of those who harbor ill intentions toward our country. They no longer have scruples and use whatever method they think may get them to their goals, most of all, striking at our national unity—our strong shield throughout the march—and not least of which, attempting to push us into compromise and relinquishment. Only over our dead bodies can our enemies force us into compromise or relinquishment, and God bears witness to my words.

Dear kinfolk: The meetings I have had with you over the past few weeks have been a source of pleasure for me. The meetings were an opportunity to sense a greater confidence in our present and even greater confidence in our future. If these meetings have been an opportunity for me to meet with certain sectors of our people in their civilian or military locations or at the Royal Court, I will see to it that this practice is kept up. Such get togethers give me the chance to read in your eyes and words the genuinness of your feelings. I read in them the book of the Arab Jordanian who has always belonged to the homeland and will for always remain supportive of his nation holding fast and building, innovating, and enriching the pan-Arab action with the values bequeathed him by the values and principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

To each and every member of the dear Jordanian family I extend my congratulations and hearfelt greetings and deepest love. I press each and every hand with all the warmth of love and pride. On this blessed 'Id, I wish all the good and happiness to our dear homeland, brothers and sisters, and kinfolk. I appeal to God Almighty that when the 'Id next comes around, it will find us as best as can be. And to the kinfolk in the occupied Arab land I extend greetings and congratulations because they are a paradigm of sacrifice. And may the peace of God be upon you all. And may you be in good shape every year.

King's Arab Tour Reportedly Slated for Jul

JN0607065389 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—His Majesty King Husayn will begin an Arab tour at the end of this month as part of his majesty's continuing efforts to bolster Arab solidarity.

During the tour, His Majesty King Husayn will hold talks with leaders of the fraternal countries on developments in Arab affairs and means to bolster joint Arab action.

Bin-Shakir Comments on 'Charter,' Elections

JN0507163089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Statement in Amman on 5 July by Prime Minister Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir on Royal Decree amending election law—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear fellow citizens: Throughout their lives, people stand at certain stages to assess their march and look into their experiments to foretell new horizons to renew their activity and prompt them to pool their potentials. The stage in which we are now living is among the stages at which we should stand to review events. The experiments and determination of the Jordanians can prepare the appropriate atmosphere to organize the method of their life in a manner that accepts challenges and overcomes obstacles.

A quick reading of our contemporary history will help us foretell the future and predict its steps. It will also help us proceed with organizing our political life with confidence, balance, and participation.

Political life in this country has been based on a number of rules and bases, stemming from the principles of the great Arab revolt. These principles have enriched the thinking of our nation since the beginning of this century. They have continued to enrich the aspirations of successive generations of the leaders of the contemporary Arab movement. These principles will remain, all the times, a referent framework for all of us.

This revolution has the ability to face the challenges of our contemporary life and meet the requirements of our national conditions. Hence, the call came from the guardian of the heritage of this revolution and the leader of this homeland—His Majesty King Husayn—for thinking over and discussing a national charter that expresses the aspirations of this people honestly and highlight their genuineness and aspirations faithfully.

Our political life in Jordan has always represented a continuous optimisim for the work to achieve Arab unity. The Palestine question has also constituted the focus of commitment and concern on all levels. Hence, any drafting of our political life should balance our pan-Arab assets, which have become deep-rooted over time, with the requirements of our internal life and should express this balance faithfully and skillfully. The drafting of our political life should also deepen the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship with all its dimensions and add to it all that can deepen these ties, depending in all this on the common history and single destiny, inspired by Jordan's firm defense of the Palestinians rights on their national soil, and considering the PLO the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Perhaps one of the shining points in our life in Jordan is care for man as an individual, society, and environment. This care has given our country a distinctive international status. As a result of relentless, purposeful effort, our country, thanks to its vanguard leadership, established intimate Arab ties and balanced international relations. We have the purest and strongest relations with every fraternal Arab and Islamic country and maintain relations of solidarity and cooperation with developing nations and close, balanced ties with the European states, the two superpowers—the Soviet Union and the United States—as well as Japan and China, and other major states in the world thanks to the firm bridges His Majesty King Husayn has extended with the world's vast continents.

Hence, Jordan's role has tangibly expanded. This role has been consolidated by our honorable positions in supporting our brothers and by our open outlook toward regional groupings and international forums.

In implementation of the directives of the royal letter of designation, we are now heading toward a new era in our political life, which, in fact, is not unprecedented. We have an old practice in this life since the first days of the emirate. This blessed step, which we will take, God willing, will close the circle of citizens' genuine participation in deciding their future after obstacles that used to prevent the completion of the requirements of this participation have been removed. Thus, legislative authority will reestablish its natural role in our society. This will come through holding parliamentary elections before the end of this year to guarantee citizens' freedom to exercise their constitutional rights.

While announcing that, we hope that appropriate circumstances will be provided for cooperation among the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities to establish a just, productive, and active society in which citizens will be able to exercise their freedom, release their energies, and safeguard their achievements and in which freedom of thought and expression is maintained within an open, responsible framework.

This will complete preparation for the new stage, which is required by the need to adapt ourselves to the new facts and circumstances surrounding us and the region in the heart of which we live. This stage should also agree with the requirements necessitated by the progress achieved in the national arena in economic, social, and cultural fields.

We beseech God Almighty to lead us into the sound path and grant us success for the good of our country and nation under the leader of the march, His Majesty King Husayn, may God protect and support him.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

'Text' of Decree, Electoral Law Amendments

JN0607102889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
6 Jul 89 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The following royal decree has been issued:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Paragraph A of Article 94 of the Constitution, and pursuant to the Council of Ministers' decision of 4 July 1989, endorse—in accordance with Article 31 of the Constitution—the following temporary law, and order that it be issued, temporarily implemented, and added to the state laws after being referred to Parliament in its first session.

Temporary Law No 23 for 1989

Law Amending the House of Representatives Electoral Law

Article 1: This law shall be named law amending the House of Representatives electoral law for 1989, and shall be read with Law No 22 for 1986, referred to here as the original law—and its amendments—as one law. It shall be enforced as of the date of its issuance in the Official Gazette.

Article 2: Article 25 of the original law shall be amended by considering its contents Paragraph A and by adding the following Paragraph B:

B. The interior minister is entitled to exempt permanently or temporarily any of the data included in the personal electoral card as cited in Paragraph A of this article, including the voter's photograph.

Article 3: The table of constituencies and seats allocated for each of them in the House of Representatives as appended to the original law shall be canceled and replaced by the table appended to this law.

Table of Constituencies and Seats Allocated for Each of Them in the House of Representatives

Article 1: To achieve the objectives of Article 21 of the House of Representatives electoral law, the Kingdom's constituencies for the purpose of elections to the House of Representatives shall be as shown in this table.

Article 2: Legislation governing administrative divisions and divisions of Greater Amman Municipality as decided by the municipal council shall be adopted in defining the area or areas included in every constituency.
I. Amman Governorate:
A. The first constituency. It includes the areas of Basman, Marka, and Tariq in the Greater Amman Municipality—three Muslim deputies.
B. The second constituency. It includes the areas of al-Yarmuk, al-Nasr, Ra's-al-'Ayn, and Badr in the Greater Amman Municipality—three Muslim deputies.
C. The third constituency. It includes the areas of the city center, Zahran, and al-'Abdali in the Greater Amman Municipality—four Muslim deputies, including one Circassian or Chechen deputy, and one Christian deputy.
D. The fourth constituency. It includes the areas of al-Quwaysimah, al-Juwaydah, Abu-'Alandah, Khurayabat al-Suq, Jawa, al-Yadudah, Umm-Qusayr, and al-Muqabalayn in the Greater Amman Municipality, and the subdistricts of Sahab, al-Jizah, and al-Muwaqqar with the exception of the central bedouin tribes—two Muslim deputies.
E. The fifth constituency. It includes the areas of Shafa Badran, Abu-Nusayr, al-Jubayhah, Suwaylih, Tila'-al-'Ali, Umm-al-Summaq, and Khilda in the Greater Amman Municipality, and the subdistricts of Wadi-al-Sir and Na'ur—five Muslim deputies, including one from the Circassians or Chechens.
F. The sixth constituency. It includes the district of Ma'daba and the subdistrict of Dhiban—two Muslim deputies and one Christian deputy.
II. Irbid Governorate:
A. The city of Irbid and the centers and areas directly linked to the center of the governorate—eight Muslim deputies and one Christian deputy.
B. Jarash District—two Muslim deputies.
C. 'Ajlun District—two Muslim deputies and one Christian deputy.
D. Al-Ramtha District and Bani Kananah District—three Muslim deputies.
E. Al-Qurah District and the Northern Ghor [Jordan Valley] District—two Muslim deputies.
III. Al-Balqa' Governorate—six Muslim deputies and two Christian deputies.
IV. Al-Karak Governorate—seven Muslim deputies and two Christian deputies.
V. Ma'an Governorate—five Muslim deputies.
VI. Al-Zarqa' Governorate—five Muslim deputies, including one Circassian or Chechen deputy, and one Christian deputy.
VII. Al-Mafraq Governorate—three Muslim deputies.
VIII. Al-Tafilah Governorate—three Muslim deputies.
IX. Bedouins:
A. North—two Muslim deputies.
B. Central—two Muslim deputies.
C. South—two Muslim deputies.

The northern bedouin tribes are the following: Bani-Khalid, al-Sirhan, al-'Isa, al-Sardiyah, al-Masa'id, al-Sharafat, al-'Alamat, and al-Zubayd.

The central bedouins are the following: Bani-Sakhr tribes: al-Ghabin, al-'Amir, al-Ka'abinah, Salit, al-Haqish, al-Khurshan, al-Jubur, al-Shar'ah, al-Badarin, al-Tayyibin, al-Hammad, al-Qudat, and al-Salim.

The southern bedouins are the following: Al-Huwaytat tribes: Al-Mataliqah, al-Tawayihah, al-Sulaymaniyin, al-Najadat, al-Nu'aymat, al-Mara'iyah, al-Zawayidah, al-Manna'in, al-Hajaya, Bani-'Atiyah, al-'Attun, al-Darawishah, al-Dammaniyah, al-Hidban, al-Batuniyah, al-Zalabiyah, al-Sa'diyin, al-Rashayidah, al-'Ammarin, al-Ahyawat, al-Subayhiyin, al-Sumayhiyin, al-Rabayi'ah, and al-Taqatiqah.

Interior Minister Discusses Election Details

JN0607115989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has said that the general elections will take place as soon as possible in light of the government's concern over the implementation of the constitution and in response to the royal instructions in the letter of designation. Speaking at a news conference this afternoon, the minister said the law amending the general elections law clarified the existence of electoral constituencies and the distribution of the seats allocated to them. Furthermore, he said, the amendments contained organizational issues to do with the election card.

The existing electoral rolls, he added, will be valid in the electoral constituencies where there has been no amendment. As for constituencies where no amendments were made, there will be re-registration.

On the election card, the deputy prime minister and interior minister said an election card without a photo will be issued. But the voters will be asked upon casting their ballot to back it up with an identification like a passport or the identity card issued by the Civil Registration Department.

Views Political Parties, Elections

JN0607143589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Interview with Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Randah Habib in Amman on 6 July—recorded]

[Text] [Habib] Mr Minister, what is the status of the inhabitants of the Palestinian camps with regard to the upcoming Jordanian elections? Will they participate in both voting and running for elections?

[Masa'idah] We regard the camps as populated centers. They are either within towns or in the countryside. We regard them either as a city quarter or a town in the Jordanian countryside. Therefore, what applies for the populated centers such as the city quarters or the towns also applies for the camps. This means they have the right to register, vote, and run for elections.

[Habib] Why has there not been any change to Article 18, which stipulates that the candidate should not be affiliated with an illegal organization?

[Masa'idah] First of all, the article in question was within a permanent law that was presented to the two chambers of parliament—the House of Representatives and the Senate. It was ratified by a royal decree and was added to the valid laws of the state. Moreover, the article is both flexible and precise. After stating that the candidate should not be affiliated with an illegal organization, it defines an illegal organization as any party or organization whose principles, aims, and intentions contravene the terms of the Constitution. I think that if in any country of the world there is an organization working against the terms and articles of that country's constitution, that country has the right to reject candidates of that organization. This will continue unless an amendment of this article is effected allowing organizations that work against the Constitution to field their candidates.

[Habib] About the national charter: Can you explain the basis of this charter? Will it result in forming political parties?

[Masa'idah] The charter, whose establishment is now being considered—and we hope that its drafting will begin soon—is based on the Constitution itself. It is based on Jordan's history and the Great Arab Revolt. It will be like the Constition, containing detailed instructions in matters of economy and politics. Concerning the political side, it is hoped that this charter will draw up the framework for political work and consequently will result in establishing political organizations within this framework.

[Habib] Thank you, Your Excellency.

Comments on Elections

JN0607183189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has said that the king's letter of designation that sets forth the general outlines for the government's polices calls for making preparations for a restoration of parliamentary life after the barriers and obstacles created by the June 1967 war have been removed, after the issuance of the decision severing legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, and after Jordan's recognition of the state of Palestine.

This came at a news conference held by the minister at the Interior Ministry this afternoon. At the news conference, the minister spoke on the law on parliamentary elections and the amendments introduced to it as well as the measures the ministry intends to take to hold the elections and the constitutional deadlines for the phases of registration, nomination, voting, processing of results, announcing results, and the date the new House of Representatives is to meet for the first time.

At his news conference, the minister said:

[Begin recording] [Masa'idah] It pleases me to welcome you in our first meeting so that we can talk about an issue that has recently become a topic for debate and on which opinions and guesswork took differing courses—namely, the issue pertaining to the holding of general elections in Jordan. The king's letter of designation that sets forth general outlines for this government's policy calls for making preparations for a return to parliamentary life after the barriers and obstacles emerging from the June 1967 war have been removed, after the decision on the disengagement of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank has been issued, and after the Kingdom's recognition of the state of Palestine. The letter of designation also calls for consecrating the pillars of national unity and for showing no mercy toward any attitude or position that might undermine the cohesion of this unity. Besides, the letter of designation gives due care and attention to respect for responsible freedom in expressing opinions and holding a calm and positive dialogue among citizens and between citizens and officials. [passage omitted]

The government worked to incorporate public demands into the election law amendment within an objective framework to the extent that falls in harmony with the Kingdom's circumstances and its population.

The government's commitment to hold general elections and to take the measures required to achieve this at the earliest possible time at a time when rumors, talk, and guesswork increased to the effect that the elections will be postponed or that the government will seek to establish institutions to replace the House of Representatives, such as a consultative council or national consultative council on the pretext that the circumstances are not opportune for the holding of such elections, I say again, this commitment and the embarkation on launching measures is prompted by our eagerness to put into effect the articles enshrined in the Constitution and to implement the royal directives contained in the king's letter of designation and also by the government's confidence in the awareness of all citizens and that they will all deal with this experience in a manner that harmonizes with their noble affiliation to this country and with their keenness on the unity of its compatriots and on safeguarding its stability and the development of all sources of strength in it. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] On the right of nomination, the minister said:

[Masa'idah] The right of nomination is granted to whoever was registered in any election roster in Jordan. He is authorized to nominate himself in any constituency that he likes. There are no restrictions on the place in which he wants to run for elections. The restrictions concern the issue of registration and where he is authorized to exercise his election right. As for nomination, he might be registered in Ma'an and run for elections in Al-Zarqa'. There are no restrictions on this issue.

[Announcer] On the conditions pertaining to the election card, the minister said:

[Masa'idah] Article 35 of the Constitution says: The interior minister shall issue an individual election card for each voter, and this card must have a photograph of the voter as well as personal data taken from the family book issued by the Civil Affairs Department, his constituency, and the election center in which he is allowed to vote as well as his number in the voters' roster in this center. The individual election card shall be valid in accordance with the time limit and conditions decided by the interior minister or with instructions issued by him. [passage omitted]

The main reason for the failure to issue a reasonable or great number of election cards for voters was the photograph. Some people refrained for reasons of their own to attempt to obtain the card. They did not rush to obtain the cards. The financial burden could be responsible for this. Obtaining the required photographs costs 2 Jordan dinars. When a person has about four or five people eligible to cast their votes, he would need a good amount of money, not to mention the fact that people had to spend some time to get this card. Thus, the interior minister was given the right to exclude any data temporarily or permanently. We hope that each citizen will have a permanent election card in the future, a card valid for a long time in which his photograph appears. This is our future hope. We are approaching the holding of elections. We are eager to secure the largest possible participation by citizens. Therefore, we have to facilitate this mission—that is, participation in elections. It was found wise to exclude any data. The prevailing tendency actually is not to insist on having a photograph on the election card. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] On raising the number of seats of the House of Representatives, the deputy prime minister and interior minister said:

[Masa'idah] We effected a change in the number of seats, a change that we deemed appropriate. We had 72 deputies. It is clear that there were complaints and remarks voiced even by those not directly concerned with the issue. People who used to follow events used to make their remarks. There was a big disparity. We were about to remove this disparity either through effecting a reduction in the number of seats in general, thus redistributing seats—it was found that this might create a sort of sensitivity among people and this might create frustration among citizens; hence, we overlooked this option—or through maintaining the number of seats and redistributing the seats. We also came to learn that we would be forced to take seats from one constituency to give to another constituency; this would give the citizens a feeling of discomfort in general. Therefore, it was found appropriate to increase the number, albeit by the least possible number so that this number would fall in line with this country's population. As a country with a population of 3 million, we did not want to have 300 candidates—that is, 300 parliamentary seats. Therefore, it was found to be wise to add the least possible number of seats. It was found that eight deputies was the least possible number. This decision was the result of thinking on which there can be differing opinions. The redistribution was effected to take into account the population density in general. Therefore, you will find that the increase in the number of seats for Amman was limited to three, and a fourth was provided for in the last law issued in April. Thus, Amman had an increase of four deputies, while al-Zarqa' had an increase of two deputies, while Irbid, al-Salt—that is, al-Balqa', had an increase of one deputy each. For a different consideration, one more parliamentary seat was added to al-Mafraq Governorate, considering that the minimum number of seats to be given to each governorate would be three deputies. Since the country found justifications for introducing a new seat in this governorate, let us safeguard for it the minimum level for representation at the parliament, which was found to be three deputies. [end recording]

Masa'idah on Date of Elections

JN0707075689 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jul 89 p 1

[By Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[Text] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has said that the government is committed to holding parliamentary elections as soon as possible and that these elections might be held between 8 and 18 November this year.

Speaking at a news conference yesterday, in which he spoke particularly about the electoral law and its amendments, Masa'idah added that the government is making plans for a national charter that will organize political activity and deal with the economic situation and public affairs, indicating that the charter will produce political organizations.

Columnist Urges Punishment for 'Fortune Hunters'
JN0607092089 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jul 89 p 3

["I Heard; I Saw" column by Muhammad Ibrahim Dawud: "Severe Punishments To Control Prices and Goods"]

[Text] Tampering with basic commodities—whether by raising their prices or storing and hiding them away from consumers—is an economic crime as it confuses the market and the commodity trade, which is subsidized by the government to ease the burden on citizens.

There is now an urgent need to take severe measures against all those who tamper with foreign currencies or foodstuffs—resulting in higher prices of local products—to put an end to practices which harm the country and violate the simplest principles of economic security. A number of states—including certain fraternal Arab states—impose severe punishments on those who tamper with the resources of the country. This has curtailed the harmful practices and the punishments are an example to others.

In view of our critical circumstances, it has become imperative to put an end to the policy of flexibility and tolerance which we have become used to in this country and to replace it—or at least mix it with—some firmness to end these damaging practices and deal properly with those who trade in foreign currencies or store raw materials or basic commodities in the expectation that their prices will rise to an exorbitant level. Those people do not care about the citizens' welfare or the strength of the national economy.

A free market economy does not mean that there can be no control. Neither does it mean that we should keep silent over price fixing and hoarding basic commodities and materials because this is exploitation and damages progress in general.

The Ministry of Supply has pledged to watch closely all those who store or conceal basic commodities. But, so far, we have not heard of a single store being closed or of the confiscation of stored goods and commodities. Neither have we heard that any of those who wager with the country's economic resources have been brought to trial.

It is most urgent that we inflict the most severe punishment against the handful of adventurers and fortune hunters who raise and tamper with prices. This will set the example for others and will go a long way to solving the problem.

Outbreak of Fighting, 'Awn's Plans Analyzed

NC0607112989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] What is the aim of this morning's attacks on the residential areas in West Beirut and why did these attacks precede the return of Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, to Beirut at a time when it has been reiterated that Ibrahimi has brought with him the mechanism for observing Lebanese shores and preventing the entry of weapons into the ports?

Informed sources in the eastern area have linked today's development to two factors: The first is the intention of 'Awn to sing anew his internationalization tune through his determination to contact the Arab League, the United Nations, and the five major powers, preparatory to submitting a complaint to the UN Security Council and asking for the lifting of the blockade on the ports in the eastern area so that ships carrying Iraqi weapons can enter these ports.

The same sources noted that arrangements are being made to break the blockade by force, pending the receipt of replies from the Arab League, the United Nations, and the major powers.

The second factor, according to the same sources, is related to the preparations for a new round of violence led by General 'Awn against the Syrian presence in Lebanon and the nationalist and Islamic forces. According to the sources, this requires military measures which have been taken in coordination between the air and naval forces in al-Yarzah army [East Beirut army]. The sources said that this army command has operated air patrols to observe the shores. The patrols were conducted by helicopters. A squandron of Gazelle helicopters has also been put on alert.

A source close to Gen 'Awn denied these reports, despite 'Awn's insistence that the naval blockade be lifted so that he can be supplied with Iraqi weapons and despite his clinging to the FROG missiles and linking their withdrawal to the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Plans To Break Siege

NC0607114089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Press sources said today that Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn is about to contact the Arab League, the United Nations, and the major powers to ask them to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council and request lifting the blockade imposed on East Beirut ports. Meanwhile, the sources said, preparations are under way to break the siege by force after a response from those contacted is received.

The sources do not rule out the possibility of a military confrontation between the two sides, that is Syria and Lebanon. According to these sources, military measures have been adopted jointly by the Lebanese Air Force and Navy to break the siege.

In this regard, the Lebanese Army command has conducted air reconnaissance patrols to monitor the coastal areas. A squadron of Gazelle helicopters has been put on alert.

'Awn Cited on Use of Missiles

NC0707053589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] An official source has stated that Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has affirmed to Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi that he considers a cease-fire, the lifting of the sea and land blockade, and the reopening of the airport as one indivisible package which must not be linked to a discussion of political reforms.

According to AFP, the source said that the reopening of Beirut Airport can be linked to the reopening of Beirut port if it is not possible for the blockade to be completely lifted. The source added that Prime Minister 'Awn told Ibrahimi, who informed him of Syria's concern about the FROG-7 missiles, that the Lebanese Army possesses a defense system which it will not use against the Syrians in Syria. [Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0415 GMT and 0515 GMT on 7 July in similar reports notes that the source cited 'Awn as saying that the missiles will not be use against "the Syrians."]

The prime minister stressed that Lebanon has a right guaranteed by the Arab League to be supplied with the necessary weapons to defend its sovereignty. He supported the formation of a Lebanese security committee to prevent the delivery of weapons to militias.

Syria To Release All Detained Lebanese Muslims

NC0707051789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Citing security sources in Tripoli, REUTER has disclosed that Syria will release all Lebanese Muslims detained in its prisons within 1 week. The sources said this measure will involve about 100 people, most of whom belong to the Islamic Unification Movement led by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban.

Syrians Set Up Operations Room in Tripoli

NC0707045989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Citing maritime sources, REUTER has reported the Syrians have set up an operations room in the port of Tripoli to direct the ships besieging the Christian enclave. It added that five boats and two ships are permanently monitoring the coast extending from southern Syria to the port of Jubayl. The sources disclosed that

the patrol boats intercepted two container ships coming from Cyprus in the past 2 days and diverted them to the port of Tripoli, where their cargo of fruit, vegetables, and cement was unloaded.

Gunboats Seen 'Off' Coast

NC0407170189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] The Security departments have monitored Syrian gunboats moving off the Lebanese coast in an attempt to prevent the arrival of supply ships to the eastern areas.

This evening, six gunboats cruising Lebanese waters were spotted, four of which were seen off Tabarja and two off al-Zuq.

According to information received by Voice of Lebanon, Syrian warships were seen off Halat and Jubayl, 12 miles from the shore, at 1300 today. These warships intercepted two civilian ships but let them go. These warships were seen later 8 miles off the shore of Tabarja, but then they headed north.

Syria, U.S. Reportedly Discuss Hostages

NC0107112989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] The AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI weekly magazine reports that a senior officer of the Syrian intelligence service has left for Washington carrying a briefcase containing the complete files on the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon. Another Syrian officer, Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, travelled to Washington some time ago in connection with the same issue.

British Hostage's Brother Appeals for Release

NC0307182789 Paris AFP in English 1808 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 3 (AFP)—The brother of British cameraman John McCarthy seized here three years ago has pleaded for his release so he may visit his dying mother, a statement released Monday said.

The Arabic-language statement issued by WTN [expansion unknown], the cameraman's employer, quoted Terry McCarthy appealing to the captors for John's release "in the name of their religion, mercy and justice, to help a dying woman whose sole wish is to see her son before giving up the ghost."

It added that the mother was suffering in a London hospital. Mr. McCarthy's father issued a similar appeal on June 20.

John McCarthy, 32, the acting bureau chief for WTN, was kidnapped on April 17, 1986, on the road leading to Beirut International Airport in predominantly Muslim West Beirut. His abduction was never claimed.

Twenty-three non-Middle East nationals—including nine Americans, two other Britons and a dual British-Irish citizen—are believed held in Lebanon.

'Awn Interviewed on Syria, Lebanese 'Crisis'

JN0407185189 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 3 Jul 89 pp 1, 19

[Interview with Michel 'Awn, head of the Lebanese military government, by Nabih Burji and Hasan 'Abdallah in Beirut—date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] In your latest conversation with AL-QABAS before the military explosion, you said: There will be surprises. How long will we wait?

['Awn] I believed that the Arab League enjoyed more independence. At the time, I relied on the Arab League. I thought it would return to its charter to support every country's sovereignty and independence. I did not believe that the Arabs were dealing with the results of the crisis rather than its causes. I also believed that the Arabs would distinguish between debatable and undebatable topics. But we found them mix matters and ignore essential issues.

As for me, it makes no difference. Let Salim al-Huss be elected president. This is not important. What I want is the free and independent homeland, which maintains normal and brotherly relations with Syria. I do not want the deputies to be summoned outside the country to elect a president. I want our home clean, well furnished for guests. The Arabs do not act in this way. They want everything mixed together. Therefore, I can say that at the beginning, I did not see matters clearly.

[Corespondent] Does this mean that you were unrealistic?

['Awn] It is they who are unrealistic. They are dealing with our crisis as if they were amateurs, who are asked to carry out a duty, but do not know how to dispose of it. Therefore, they are not acting in accordance with facts and principles.

[Correspondent] You are a military man. The Arabs are not able to deal with the Lebanese situation academically in light of the current dramatic confusion. There are delicate regional balances and fires inside and outside the country. It is known that every settlement is a game inside the fire?

['Awn] It is not a question of academics. It is a question of realism. If I had not been realistic, I would not have reached a point of regional balance. Therefore, I am satisfied.

[Correspondent] Is it a persoan goal?

['Awn] No. The goal is Lebanon. Therefore, no one can reach a settlement in the Middle East without Lebanon's seat.

[Correspondent] What are your guarantees?

['Awn] I am the guarantee. I know myself, and I am no longer a man who acts in accordance with the messages he receives.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, the window panes of the palace were shattered, and the man of the palace may be destroyed?

['Awn] Let that happen. I and the land will survive and rebuild the palace.

[Correspondent] How do you guarantee that the general himself will not be glass?

['Awn] Everyone knows himself, and there is destiny. But we hope that destiny will not act severely so that we can save the homeland even with a few people.

[Correspondent] From what we have heard, it seems that the general is a crisis inside the Lebanese crisis?

['Awn] This is an old pronouncement.

[Correspondent] But it is viewed seriously?

['Awn] Let everyone who wants to remove me come. As everyone calling for his homeland's sovereignty and independence is a crisis, it seems that I came to Lebanon by mistake. They want us to be brokers and intelligence organs for the Western countries. If matters are like this, I am certainly in a crisis. Let whoever wants to remove me come. There is the U.S. 6th Fleet, there is the Israeli Air Force, and there is the Syrian artillery. Let them send anything to remove me. I have never leave my work, and the measures I have taken are very few.

[Correspondent] You said that any settlement in Lebanon should take place in cooperation with Syria. But your statements aggravate the situation?

['Awn] Yes. But you should know that I am not begging Syria, the Arabs, or the United States. Tomorrow, my messages to the world will be published, and you will make sure that I am not begging. I believe in a right, and Syria is not entitled to that right.

[Correspondent] You are acting as a regional player, and there are red lines.

['Awn] My red lines are sovereignty and independence. I am not weak. Do not just look at my size. I might lose. However, strength will be demonstrated through any loss. Let no one think that I will be a rubber stamp serving anyone's interests. They might storm the palace, and I might turn into something resembling a flattened loaf of bread under a tank. However, this is no loss. I will be victorious even if they manage to kill me. I have emphasized my stand and right. I have also bequeathed to my sons the right to demand a termination to the occupation.

[Correspondent] You are a general, and when you advance from one position to another, you take into account all calculations.

['Awn] That is true.

[Correspondent] That is, there is no room for idealism, as the bomb will not spare you.

['Awn] I am aware of this.

[Correspondent] When you say that you are not the strongest, this means that you are in a delicate position and that you are pushing Lebanon into this situation.

['Awn] God forbid. Lebanon is a worn-out country, and it has been subject to brokerage. We were pimps for everyone. As for now, we have ceased to work as pimps and brokers, and this is our right.

[Correspondent] On whom do you wager?

['Awn] I wager on myself and on the Lebanese people.

[Correspondent] The Lebanese people are carrying sacks of onions, potatoes, and bread, and roaming between crossings.

['Awn] The situation today is 20 times better than it was during World War II. During that time, I was a child, and we had neither shoes nor food. This taught me how to dispense with many things. Besides, I have a terrific solidarity with the people. I am not going to talk about the residents of West Beirut and their solidarity.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, what are the reasons behind the recent change in the U.S. stand?

['Awn] There is no change in the U.S stand. There is a change in hair dye, and such changes are widespread in Europe and the United States.

[Correspondent] Washington changed its stand when it said that Michel 'Awn is a major figure with whom a dialogue must be held.

['Awn] The Americans have become certain that public opinion supports me.

[Correspondent] Is there anything beyond that?

['Awn] No.

[Correspondent] It is said that the new U.S. stand is only designed to secure a calm downfall for the general.

['Awn] They [the Americans] are powerful, and they can secure a calm downfall as well as a boisterous one. Their material and moral means to achieve this are unlimited. Falling before a power such as the United States is not strange. But the fact remains that my brilliance does not bother Washington. They can bring about my downfall by helping me succeed. [sentence as published] If they think that my downfall will be secured when I am dismissed from power, I would like to tell them right now that I am not seeking power.

[Correspondent] They might trade you for reforms.

['Awn] I seek liberation first. As for reforms, they are our wellspring and represent one of our established traditions. Yes, we admit that something has to be corrected as regards the relations among the Lebanese.

[Correspondent] To what extent are you willing to go in effecting reforms, considering that you said that there will be no problem if Prime Minister al-Huss becomes the president of the republic.

['Awn] I have no problem with this issue. The problem lies in spelling out the values upon which the reforms are to be built.

[Correspondent] Would you accept the election of a Muslim Lebanese president?

['Awn] I have no objections to this.

[Correspondent] You have not yet put forward your political plan.

['Awn] In the presence of occupation, every plan will be burned.

We swore in front of everyone that we accept the resolutions of the Arab summit. However, they have nothing to say but that Michel 'Awn is a liar.

[Correspondent] But you are holding the summit resolutions at the ports through your insistence on lifting the blockade on these ports as a first step.

['Awn] Let us be realistic and stop playing with words. The Tunis [as published] resolutions called for arranging a cease-fire, lifting the siege, opening the crossings, and creating the appropriate climate for political discussions. The Syrians, however, say there is no lifting of the siege except within a political solution.

What do I say? I have ordered the opening of Beirut Airport since 28 April. I told this to Lakhdar Ibrahimi [Arab League assistant secretary general]. But they still bombard us. We reply in a limited way, not to cause destruction, but to cripple them.

[Correspondent] Is this because you lack ammunition?

['Awn] No. In fact, I am annoyed with the large amount of ammunition. My warehouses are not large enough to accommodate the ammunition. We lost nothing, and we had prepared ourselves to face the blockade.

[Correspondent] Do you still receive arms?

['Awn] We receive everything.

[Correspondent] This means the blockade is not full, and that there is room for dialogue.

['Awn] Yes, yes. But my reactions are numerous, and let no one think that my ability is limited. I may burn the world.

I am quiet and tolerent because I am not in danger, but I will break the hand that tries to strangle me, or, at least, I will try to break it.

[Correspondent] Is the amount of pressure on you the same as it was before the Arab summit?

['Awn] The harm is continuing, and we are maneuvering to avoid injury.

[Correspondent] Can one wage a war of "liberation" without a political framework?

['Awn] In absolute frankness I say that I will not negotiate with anyone about reforms before the liberation. If my late mother (may God bless her soul) says to me, "Let us reach an understanding on reforms before the liberation," I will say to her, "I wish you had not given birth to me."

[Correspondent] You said there is no change in the U.S. stand. This means there is no international impetus toward settlement in Lebanon. Consequently, the potential for explosion is higher than that of relaxation.

['Awn] The Americans might be wanting to ease the situation. They want the situation neither at the boiling point nor at the freezing point. They want the "meal" to continue hot enough for consumption. They want Lebanon as a consolation prize. Lebanon, therefore, should be able to defend itself during the times of war and peace. This is a message for everybody. The subordinate Lebanon no longer exists.

[Correspondent] What helps a settlement in the Middle East, explosion or relaxation in Lebanon?

['Awn] Lebanon will be a consolation prize for any settlement. They cooked us and left us beside the fire so that we remain fit for consumption. I reject this situation.

[Correspondent] Then what will the Arab Tripartite Committee do?

['Awn] Either it will help us or it won't. I am afraid of slow work. By this, I mean that I am afraid that the committee will work for an appeasement that will not serve our interests.

[Correspondent] What will not serve your interests?

['Awn] An appeasement without a settlement of the Lebanese cause. The Lebanese cause must be settled before the time comes for the peaceful settlement of the Middle East cause.

[Correspondent] How much time do you give the Arab Tripartite Committee to reach a solution?

['Awn] All the time so long as I am feeling comfortable. I am now upset, and if I continue to be so....

[Correspondent] There are others in the Middle East who are stronger than you and who are afraid of the circumstances of a settlement?

['Awn] The important thing is that I fear nothing after we have lost everything.

[Correspondent] Will you allow the deputies to leave Lebanon if they are invited to meet abroad?

['Awn] Will they themselves agree to do so? Do you believe that this will be a negation of Lebanese sovereignty?

[Correspondent] The Arab Tripartite Committee is undertaking good offices, and you have agreed to them?

['Awn] This is true. But I do not accept illogical solutions. I accept what is logical. I have described the operation of moving the deputies outside the country as being an operation of moving a container from one place to another so that one can place what one wants in it.

[Correspondent] Then you will not permit the deputies to leave?

['Awn] This is one opinion. However, I believe that the deputies know where their interests lie. From time to time, I remind them of their national duties.

[Correspondent] The general inspires fear even when he uses sedate words?

['Awn] No, I do not inspire fear. I fight with the deputies in a democratic manner.

[Correspondent] What are your expectations with respect to the work that the Arab Tripartite Committee is undertaking?

['Awn] I do not know what is in their minds, and I cannot predict anything. However, I wish that the committee would define what can and cannot be discussed with respect to the situation of an Arab country in accordance with the Arab League Charter. The committee must reach an understanding with Syria on what the latter wants from Lebanon. If this takes place, then we can reach some kind of understanding with Syria, and the domestic state of affairs in Lebanon will then be settled.

[Correspondent] Does this mean you have no problem concerning a dialogue with Syria?

['Awn] Syria has a problem with me and not vice versa.

[Correspondent] If an invitation is extended to you to visit Damascus, will you accept it?

['Awn] I will not visit Syria before Syria withdraws from Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Even if there is a schedule for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon?

['Awn] In this case, I would consider there to be an agreement with the Syrians.

[Correspondent] Therefore, you are not willing to meet with President al-Asad?

['Awn] After his shelling of us, I have become unwilling to meet him. They have tried to assassinate me four times. The last time was in Cyprus. I ask the Arab committee through AL-QABAS to send an investigation committee to Cyprus to find out the facts of the issue.

[Correspondent] Syria is in a state of multiconfrontation with Israel. Do you view Lebanon as an arena isolated from this confrontation?

['Awn] On the contrary. I am inside the conflict. I want to perform my role in conformity with my personality. I do not want to be a Syrian province in this conflict. I am Lebanese and stand by Syria in this conflict—within my sovereignty and independence, however. It would be better if southern Lebanon becomes like the Golan, that is, one front. Then, we will be ready to implement the joint defense charter with Syria.

[Correspondent] You mean you are with Syria and against Israel.

['Awn] True.

[Correspondent] Washington advised Syria to hold dialogue with you. Would Washington hold dialogue with you?

['Awn] Yes. Washington would talk with me not out of love, but because I am present with great strength.

[Correspondent] Will they hold dialogue with you because you are a fait accompli or because you are a futuristic project?

['Awn] They will hold dialogue with me as a capable party. Then one hears that the problem is in my court.

[Correspondent] Is the ball in your court because you are fighting the liberation battle in other capitals aggressive to Damascus?

['Awn] I will fight my battle on the moon. My battle is a cosmic one. The issue of the other capitals is, according to my definition, that of support. The battle is here in Beirut. Whatever weapons I get are not bound to an alliance.

[Correspondent] Unpaid-for support?

['Awn] Yes. It is support. The proof of this is that I have said that I am a supporter of brotherly relations and reasonable agreements with Syria.

[Correspondent] What are the limits of a brotherly relationship with Syria?

['Awn] Mutual respect—almost an enlarged picture of your relations with your brother.

[Correspondent] Without being distinguished?

['Awn] Why should they be distinguished? The brotherly relationship is a distinguished one. There is a state and a people on our border whom we do not want to turn to enemies.

[Correspondent] General, if you pay Syria to withdraw from Lebanon, what would Israel do to Lebanon?

['Awn] Nothing. It will withdraw. I will be on the confrontation line with Israel.

[Correspondent] Will you fight Israel?

['Awn] Yes. Occupation is occupation.

[Correspondent] What is preventing you from beginning acts of resistance against the Israeli occupation militarily and diplomatically?

['Awn] From where am I to start? Do you not see that it is difficult for me to tackle the Israeli problem when I am being stifled? The political conditions must be secured first. Otherwise, the issue will turn into acts of one-upsmanship. When I sent messages to the Americans, I did not ask them for help against the Syrians. Copies of these messages are kept here. (He pounds his desk) I sent these messages to help secure the implementation of Resolution No 425. I have historical documents here. What did the Arabs run into when they visited Washington? They ran into the issue of the implementation of Resolution No 425 and not that of Syria.

Hence, I say that the issue is only resolvable at the United Nations, as Syria links its withdrawal to an Israeli withdrawal and vice versa.

[Correspondent] That is, the solution lies in internationalization?

['Awn] The Arabs are facing a problem called Israel, and this problem can only be resolved through the United Nations or through al-Naqurah negotiations. If these two methods fail, we will be left with the option of resistance to liberate southern Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Arabization [of the Lebanese crisis] is a phased development then?

['Awn] Arabization will solve a large portion of the problem if Syria deals positively with the Arabs. However, the last phase of the problem will be resolved at the United Nations through peace negotiations or through resistance. That is if the problem with Syria is resolved.

[Correspondent] Saying that Arabization is only a phased development gives rise to fear.

['Awn] I said that Arabization resolves a large portion of the problem. Inter-Arab problems must be resolved so that we can devote all time and efforts to confronting the Israeli phase.

[Correspondent] And when internationalization materializes, Lebanon will be placed under international trusteeship?

['Awn] No. No. Internationalizing the problem means having it discussed at an international forum to secure an Israeli withdrawal.

[Correspondent] Do you not have a word that is less thunderous than "liberation?"

['Awn] Evacuation?

[Correspondent] Raymond Iddih said that it is better to use the term "defensive war."

['Awn] Any way conducive to a Syrian withdrawal is acceptable by us.

[Correspondent] Did the Israelis contact you?

['Awn] Contact me? No.

[Correspondent] Are you sure that Israel has not contacted any of your aides or supporters?

['Awn] No. No. These are newspaper reports. They said that 'Amir Shihab visited Israel. This is an old tune played again.

[Correspondent] Did Israel attempt to contact you and you stopped the attempt?

['Awn] There are many news reports on this issue. There is no party that does not seek to contact other parties. When men see a beautiful lady, they all attempt to attract her attention. However, the important thing is the lady's response. (He laughs)

[Correspondent] What is this lady's response?

['Awn] You know the response. (laughter)

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Reported in West Beirut

NC0707100889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Clashes broke out between the Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen in the al-Awza'i area in West Beirut before noon today. The clashes coincide with preparations in Damascus for talks between a Hizballah delegation and an Amal Movement delegation led by former Minister Nabih Birri on the one hand and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is expected to arrive in the Syrian capital, on the other. The talks will deal with disputes between the two sides.

Military Aircraft Overflights Reported 7 Jul

NC0707065289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Flights by Lebanese warplanes over several areas were reported this morning.

Syrians Shell Coastal Areas 7 Jul

NC0707073389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Syrian long-range artillery this morning directed intermittent shellfire at the Kasrawan and Jubayl coasts. Some shells fell on some villages in the area. The vicinity of Beirut port and the northern al-Matn coast also came under Syrian shellfire. Shells fell a short while ago in the central and northern al-Matn areas.

1 Killed, Others Wounded

NC0707094889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The Syrian shelling of the Kasrawan and Jubayl coastal and inland areas today left five people wounded. The Beirut port vicinity and the coastal and upper al-Matn areas also came under Syrian shelling. Private Jiryis Ilyas Zughayb was killed this morning during Syrian attacks on the Kafr Shima area.

Iran

Ayatollah Khamene'i Message to Pilgrims

LD0607140489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Message from Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, addressed to pilgrims visiting Mecca and to Muslims throughout the world—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [Koranic verse and prayers omitted]

Once again the days of Hajj have arrived and the Abrahamite invitation to the people to participate in Hajj urges the pure-hearted Muslims to obey, while the pain of separation from the house of God saturates the hearts of the enthusiasts with sorrow and grief. The hand of tyranny and enmity which has emerged out of the sleeves of the rulers of Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] did not limit itself merely to massacring hundred of pilgrims to the house of God right in the middle of the sacred threshold of God's blessed shrine, as well as to crushing thousands of the shrine's bloodstained pigeons on the mere pretext of them shunning the infidels and expressing their hatred of America and Israel and urging the Muslims toward unity and fraternity. In addition, with the aim of exacting revenge from a nation which in various senses has attacked the forces of global arrogance, deprived the world's plunderers and bullies of comfortable sleep, and for the purposes of nullifying the effects of several years of Hajj with disavowal from infidels, which, with the blessing of the presence of the children of the revolution and the strugglers on the path of the Koran and Islam, filled the atmosphere of the sacred shrines and 'Arafat, Mash'ar and Mena with the cry of pure monotheism and the negation of the doctrine of coercion and materialistic attachments, the Saudi rulers blocked the road of the house of God and the sanctuary of people while asking the assistance of hireling tongues and pens together with the Zionist and American media to act against the children of the revolution.

The is the second Hajj season in which the Iranian nation, the most selfless children of Islam, have been denied the right to go around the house of the beloved. On the basis of hollow excuses, this year the Saudi Government again blocked the path of God, like last year. [passage indistinct]

Our history's memory will not forget these hostilities. Now that the nation of Iran, simultaneous with the anniversary of the bloody tragedy of Mecca, is mourning the big tragedy of the loss of the great leader, the proclaimer of Muslim unity, the standard-bearer of Islam and of the Koran, the pious slave of God, and sympathetic adviser of the ummah, and the true son of the prophet, the great Khomeyni, it would be appropriate for the pilgrims of the house of God, from whatever nationality and country, to listen to the echo of his call for monotheism and unity, which used to come out of his Abrahamite larynx annually to fill the atmosphere of God's house first and then the atmosphere of the Islamic world, to make idols of power and wealth. It would be appropriate for the Muslims to respond to his call, which was the word desired by millions of Muslims, humiliated and oppressed by the hireling and arrogant rulers. Yes, although the dear Josef of the ummah of Islam is no longer among us and his place among every individual enthusiastic Iranian pilgrim is empty, yet even now he can be found in the heart of every pious worshipper, in every enthusiastic soul, in every justice-seeking tongue, in the body of every zealous and bereaved Muslim, and wherever there is the talk of Islam's honor, of the unity of Muslims, of disavowal of the infidels, and of hatred for the enemies of God and the idols of reaction. He is alive as long as the genuine Mohammadan Islam is alive. He is alive as long as the flag of Islam's glory, the unity of Muslims and hatred of the tyrants is hoisted.

His heavenly cry used to say: The sincerity of the monotheists will not be realized except by full demonstration of their hatred for the infidels and hypocrites. This cry still echoes in the sky above Mecca. His unforgettable lesson used to say: Which place is more suitable than Qa'ba, this sanctuary and refuge of mankind, to demonstrate in voice and deed against all acts of aggression, tyranny, colonialism, slavery, abjectness, and cowardly actions? This is engraved in the memory of alert human beings.

His warning question used to ask: Should one sit indifferent at home with wrong justification, which is an insult to the prestige and status of Muslims and which will promote a mentality of complacency and despondency among Muslims, to tolerate the satan and his stooges? This alerts the conscience of the zealous Muslims to seek a fair and sincere answer. And his prophetic phrase used to say: Alas, it would be a pity for the ummah of Mohammad, may God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his scion, who have quenched their thirst for learning from the 'Ashura water, and those who are waiting for the pious to receive their inheritance, to submit to the slavery of the east and the west, which is an abject life worse than death. This conquers the hearts and minds of the eager worshippers. And he used to add: God forbid if Khomeyni remains silent in the face of aggression by satans and by those who blaspheme and violate the sanctity of the noble Koran and the family of God's apostle and the ummah of Mohammad, may God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his scion, and the followers of Ebrahim-e Khalil [prophet Abraham]. God forbid if Khomeyni were to remain silent and observe the scenes of humiliation and abjectness of the Muslims.

He used to say: The powers and the superpowers and their stooges should be certain that even if Khomeyni were to become isolated as a single man, he would still continue his path, which is the path of struggle against blasphemy, infidels, and idol-worshippers.

Thanks be to God, the great Khomeyni was not isolated, and as he wished and said, the mobilization forces of the world, these barefoot masses shunned by the dictators, deprived the world-devourers and their hirelings of peace of mind. This sweet and hope-giving cry brings life to the hearts of the believers and rushes the blood of hope and joy into the body of the Islamic ummah. The Muslims of the world and the deprived everywhere should feel proud when they see that the Islamic revolution has created an endless dilemma for all the world-devourers. They should follow this cry of freedom in their lives and destiny, and use it as an ointment to treat their wounds, for, the era of impasse and despondency has ended in the land of the meek and a flower garden has opened to nations; and it is hoped that all Muslims will witness the blossoms of freedom, the breeze of spring perfumes, the freshness of flowers of love and kindness and pure spring water of their will.

O yes, Imam Khomeyni lives on so long as hope lives on. So long as there is mobility and happiness, so long as there is jihad and struggle, Imam Khomeyni and his self-sacrificing ummah are not absent from Mecca and Mighat.

The flood of jihad, martyrdom, resistance, and disavowal of infidelity and love for the faithful—which originates from the lofty summit of his thoughts—has embraced all the agreeing hearts and lives. Thus, it gives him a spiritual presence. Yes, as he used to say himself, whether we are present in Mecca, or not, our hearts and spirits are with Abraham in Mecca. Whether they close the gates of the city of the prophet to us or whether they open those gates, our bond of love with the prophet will never be cut nor will it be loosened. We give prayers while facing the Qa'ba and we die as we face Qa'ba. And we thank God for being able to stand steadfast in our commitment to the God of Qa'ba and we thank God for not waiting for faceless rulers of some of the Islamic and non- Islamic countries to support our move. We are the ongoing victims of the history of the deprived and the barefoot. We have none but God to turn to. And if we are torn to pieces a thousand times we shall never abandon our struggle against the tyrant.

Now that for the second time the hand of injustice and oppression has closed the path of the house of God to the Iranian God-seeking Muslims, and now that the same hand is working for America and Israel. It has wronged the nation which hoisted the highest banner of struggle against the Great Satan and its usurper stooge government, and now that it has made our mournful nation—sitting in mourning for the demise of the dear imam of Islam—even more mournful, I deem it necessary to state a number of points to remind the brothers and sisters present on the Hajj scene as well as all the world Muslims and also the great Iranian nation:

Now that in the name of God and at the invitation of God's prophet you are on your way to the abode of our beloved, and now that you are on your way of pilgrimage to the house of God and have worn the Hajj robe, and you are singing like Abraham, it is to be hoped that you are tasting the sweetness which Abraham asked of God. It is to be hoped that your eyes are blessed with the light which God has promised.

Most certainly one of these gains is that during the educating rites of Hajj you must deliver your hearts—which are the house of God and which you hold it in trust for God—to Him and as such you must seek disavowal from infidelity, deception, and corruption. [Arabic verse omitted]

Hajj is the center of Islamic culture; it is the definer of Islam's general policy for the administration of human life. Hajj is the epitome of monotheism, it is the denial of satan. It is the repetition of Abraham's slogan which said: I am clean from infidelity. [passage omitted]

It is the rejection of all idols, and idols are anything put in the place of God and which transfer God's guardianship to their own guardianship and which bring under their own control the power and the will of individual human beings—whether such an idol is made of stone and wood or whether it is made of satanic and domineering powers or whether it is in the form of ignorance and unjustified prejudice. [Arabic verse omitted]

The Abrahamic and Mohammadan Hajj, God's salutations be on them, and the Alavi and Hoseyni Hajj, peace be on them, is one that couples attention to God and refuge in His guardianship and power with turning against the power of the Taghouts [tyrant rulers] and oppressors. [passage omitted]

What thirsty soul is there who, having tasted the blessing of the Muhammadan spring, as well as the water of Hoseyni Zamzam, may yet doubt the political implication of the Hajj. The kind of Hajj which is void of disavowal, the kind of Hajj which is devoid of unity, the kind of Hajj which is devoid of dynamism and uprising, the kind of Hajj from which a threat to infidelity does not sprout—these cannot be considered as Hajj. These kinds of Hajj lack the meaning and the spirit of Hajj.

The sinful idols of arrogance and colonialism, the rulers who are ignorant of God, and domineering powers of the world—in the past and at present—have all along been afraid of the kind of Hajj which is a constructive, clear, and inspiring Hajj. They have always fought against it. They have waged extensive and hostile propaganda against the political content of Hajj through the court clerics and those who benefit from their table. They have resorted to propaganda to have it accepted that Hajj is spearate from politics and that it is nothing other than individual prayer. Yet, they are ignorant that any human being with a little intelligence can understand the clear fact that if Hajj lacks the lesson of Islamic unity, of the greatness of the Islamic ummah, and of the Muslim brothers' communal congregation—the brothers who have been separated by language and by racial, national,

and geographic differences—then such a Hajj is meaningless. Such a person knows that if the Hajj contains only prayers to God and individual ties between human beings and their God then coming to Mecca from such far distances, on foot or on horseback, and at a specific season has no meaning. [passage omitted]

Yes, Hajj is obedience to God; it is giving prayers and asking for God's forgiveness. However, it is obedience and prayers in the direction of creating the immaculate life of the Islamic ummah and its salvation from the chains and locks of arrogance and dictatorship and from bondage of the owners of power and gold. It is the kind of prayers which injects the spirit of greatness to the Islamic ummah; it cleanses the spirit of sickness. [passage omitted]

This is the kind of Hajj from which those who have received blows from Islam—and at their head the criminal America—sense danger. Now, for the past 2 years, the rulers of the House of Sa'ud are obstructing the faithful in an effort to make America and Israel happy. They order the mercenary clerics to deny and condemn such a Hajj.

Now you, pilgrims of the world of Islam, who are barred by the enemies of the unity of Islam from performing the rites of Hajj together with your Iranian brothers, and from visiting the tomb of the prophet, God's benedictions be upon Him and His scion, with your Iranian brothers, please remember your deprived brothers in those rites. Please bring the Hajj, as far as you can manage, closer to its true meaning and spirit. You must know that whoever separates the Hajj from its political identity, is either ignorant or has bad intentions. God will not forgive those who in an effort to arrive at their unclean objectives deprive the Islamic ummah of their greatest weapon against the world of infidelity and arrogance. God will not forgive those who turn the dynamic and life-giving Hajj into an individual and superficial rite aligned with tourism and trade.

Among the greatest manifestations of shirk [accepting a partner to God] at present is that of separating the temporal world from the other world; it is the separation of material life from spiritual life. It is the separation of religion from politics. [passage omitted]

This is the kind of infidelity that today the Muslims must disown and thereby cleanse it from their being and that of Islam. It is sorrowful that many years of Muslims' complacency and the confinement of the Koran enabled the hands of distortion to emerge and put every void word into people's minds, under the guise of religion, thereby denying the most manifiest fundamental of God's religion. These hands put the guise of monotheism on infidelity and carry on denying the context of the Koranic Verses. [passage omitted]

The first slogan of Islam is unity [tawhid], that is, the negation of all worldly and political and all living and dead idols, and the first action taken by the prophet—may God's benediction be upon him and his scion—after the Hejrat [migration from Mecca to Medina] was to form a government and to politically administer the country. Still, in spite of this and a great deal of other evidence which demonstrates the unity between religion and politics, there are some people who say religion is separate from politics. Still others accept this anti-Islamic remark. Statesmen who go on and on about the separation of religion and politics, and those who claim to be religious but who rush to the assistance of these statesmen by repeating this same remark—have they ever pondered over the verses of the Koran and the history of Islam and religious laws? Have they ever thought that if religion is separate from politics, then why is is that the Koran links to God and God's religion and the saints of God all political affairs, government, law, life's different dimensions, peace and war, determination of friend and foe and other manifestations of politics—in sum, all and everything? [passage omitted]

Will the deeds and political and social behavior of people which comprise the greater part of their lives, go without punishment? [passage omitted] By what criteria should some actions and behavior be judged and assessed? Can it be said that Islam has nothing to do with the good and bad aspects of these deeds in the world, and does not set down any duties, but that the due punishments will be received on the day of judgement? The Islamic Jihad is placed above all religious duties in hundreds of the Koran's verses and in the Traditions. Abandoning it is considered as causing wretchedness and oppression in this world and the other. What it the Islamic Jihad to achieve and what values is it to defend? [passage omitted] If Jihad is for attaining the rule of God and leaving the governance of evil [velayat-e taqut] and entering the governance of God [velayatollah], then how can one underrate or ignore the role and value of politics in religion and in determined religious objectives? It is evident that such sinister notions as the separation of religion and politics has been made up by filthy enemies who have received a slap in the face by an Islam that is alive and on-the-scene, and who have wanted, through these tricks, to remove religion from the arena of living, and to take charge, themselves, of the running of affairs of people's lives and dominate the destiny of people without any qualms.

But what is regrettable and bitter to accept is that there are some who, under the name of religion and under the cloak of the ulema of religion, repeat this very notion of separation of religion and politics and who promote it. This harmony between some pseudoclergy and dangerous, filthy enemies in some cases orignates from their ignorance of politics and its role in the destiny of humankind and in other cases orginates in their laziness and fear and opting for an easy life—in other cases still, this springs from the dangerous link between these betrayers of religion and descendents of Bal'Am-e Ba'ura

[Koranic character] with the masters of power. Muslims should consider and count this as the greatest danger and count these pseudoclergymen as more filthy and sinister than their political masters. They must take refuge from their evil presence, in God and in their own awareness.

Those court preachers—God's damnation upon them—are not enough to warrant raising the cry of separating religion from politics through the language of religion. Moreover, for the purpose of increasing the power of evils, they indulge in praise and approval of criminals. Is this not involvement in politics and is this not Haram? [religiously forbidden] The weakening of Muslims and Islam; the sowing the seeds of discord; confrontation against the Islamic revolution; distancing from God's adherents; the disavowal of infidels and harmony with the oppressed and the deprived; objection against the domination of America and Israel over the Islamic countries, opposition to the plundering of foreign companies; condemnation of the treason of the psuedo-Muslim kings and rulers; and support for the struggles of the real Muslims—are all to be considered as an offense? [passage omitted]

The American Islam is something under the guise of Islam, which serves the interests of the arrogant powers by justifying their acts. It is a mere excuse for the isolation of the pious and for preventing them from paying attention to Muslim affairs and the fate of Muslim nations. It is a mere instrument for separating a great chunk of Islamic sociopolitical strictures from the body of religion as a whole, and an instrument for confining religion to mosques. Not a kind of mosque which is used as a base for resolving the problems of Muslims, as it was during the early years of Islam, but as corner for people to become separated from life, a corner to separate this world from life after death. [passage omitted]

The American Islam is the Islam of those kings and rulers who sacrifice the interests of their oppressed and deprived nations before the feet of Americans and European doctrines, while in return they look forward to their support and backing for the continuation of their shameful rule. It is the Islam of those capitalists, who for the purpose of safeguarding their profits, disregard all values and norms. Yes! It is this American Islam which invites people to distance themselves from politics and from political debate and activities.

However, the pure Mohammadan Islam considers politics as an inseparable part of religion, calling all Muslims to political understanding and activity. This is something that the Islamic nations must always remember, as it was expressed by their missed Imam and the loud voice of Islam.

Velayati Departs SFRY for Syria

LD0607221789 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Belgrade, July 6, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his entourage left here for Damascus this afternoon at the end of his one-day visit today. He was seen off by his Yugoslav counterpart Budimir Loncar.

Velayati before his departure discussed with his counterpart various issues including the UN Resolution 598 which seeks to end the Iraqi conflict.

He reiterated the need for international support for 598 and the four-point plan of the UN chief which explicitly calls for quick withdrawal of forces to international borders.

"It is time the international community pressured Iraq to pull back troops from Iranian soil and facilitate the implementation of the UN resolution," Velayati said.

Turning to the Afghan crisis, he said the Islamic Republic backs an independent and Islamic Afghanistan in accordance with the will of the Afghan Muslims to determine their own fate. "The Afghan Muslim people will never accept domination from any other country."

Velayati also backed the intifadah [uprising] in occupied Palestine, and on Lebanon, he said the people should select the government of their own choice based on majority votes.

Majlis Deputy Ebrahim Asgharzadeh [name spelling as received] and several Foreign Ministry officials are accompanying Velayati on his visit.

Arrives in Damascus 7 Jul

NC0707054689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus this morning from Belgrade. They were welcomed by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a number of other political officials.

The Central News Unit reports that during his stay in Damascus, our foreign minister will meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and a number of other high-ranking Syrian officials and will discuss the current developments in the region, and especially the Palestinian problem and Lebanon, and bilateral relations.

Before his visit to Syria, our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, paid a 24-hour visit to Belgrade where he held talks with the Yugoslav president and foreign minister. During their meeting with Mr Velayati, the Yugoslav officials expressed their country's support for the full implementation of UN Resolution 598 and for the UN secretary general's efforts to achieve this.

Lebanese Muslims Support Khamene'i

LD0607170189 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Prominent alim Mohammad Hoseyn Fadhlallah said today that Lebanese Muslims fully back the election of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic Revolution.

In a meeting with Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, Fadhlallah who is here to attend Imam Khomeyni's 40th day morning ceremony, expressed deep condolences on the great loss for the Muslim ummah.

He also reported on the latest developments in Lebanon and Palestine.

Ardabili in reply emphasized the struggle against the Zionist regime and its puppets, and called for preservation of unity among Lebanese Muslims.

Pakistan

Bhutto, Delegation Depart on Trip to UK, France

BK0507062089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left Islamabad a short while ago for London on a week-long visit to Britain. She will later pay a 3-day visit to Paris, where she will take part in France's bicentennial celebrations. She is accompanied by a 67-member delegation comprising the foreign minister, the adviser on foreign affairs and national security, ministers, ministers of state, special assistants, members of the national and provincial assemblies, and senior officials. She was seen off at the airport by National Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid, Punjab Governor General, Retired, Tikka Khan, federal ministers, ministers of state, advisers, Parliament members, chiefs of the armed forces, and senior officials.

Meets UK's Geoffrey Howe

BK0607160089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe called on Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in London today. Radio Pakistan's special correspondent, Safdar Ahad, said they exchanged views on important regional and international issues of mutual concern and bilateral matters. The possibility of Pakistan rejoining the Commonwealth was also discussed.

Later, Sir Geoffrey Howe said the Afghanistan situation was also discussed during the talks.

The secretary of state for trade, Lord Young, also called on the prime minister.

Bhutto on 'Very Good' Pakistani-U.S. Relations

BK0507025489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto attended a reception hosted in Islamabad yesterday evening by the U.S. ambassador in connection with U.S. Independence Day celebrations. Later, talking to U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley, the prime minister extended her congratulations and good wishes to President Bush and to the American people on the occasion.

Talking informally to newsmen, Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan and the United States enjoy very good bilateral relations and her visit to the United States has further strengthened these ties.

Bhutto Meets Soviet Delegation on POW Issue

BK0507144589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has assured a delegation of a Soviet committee seeking the release of Soviet prisoners of war [POW's] from the Afghanistan war that there are no Soviet prisoners in Pakistani territory. She informed the members of the delegation, who met her in Islamabad today, that Pakistan considers the POW's issue as a matter of human consideration. She said Pakistan will continue its efforts for the release of the POW's taken by any side.

The Soviet delegation thanked the prime minister and said the sentiments expressed by her have further strengthened the confidence of the members of the delegation.

Scud Missile Attacks by Kabul Protested

BK0507163889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest over firing of three Scud missiles by Kabul regime forces last month that landed in different areas inside Pakistan. The Kabul regime's charge d' affaires in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Office today and was asked to inform his authorities that if such attacks do not cease, the entire responsibility for serious consequences will vest on the Kabul authorities.

It may be recalled that one Scud missile fired by Kabul regime forces landed in (Mazrul Kandav) near (Qazand) area on the 23d of last month, the second at (Satagaon) area the next day, and the third landed in the (Spinin-shargah Terikowt) area on the 26th of last month.

A complaint has already been lodged with the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan over these violations of Geneva accords.

UN Envoy Lodges Protest

BK0707023689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the United Nations over Kabul forces' latest provocative Scud missile attacks on its territories. Nasim Ahmed, Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations, in a letter to the UN secretary general has said that these violations were committed on the 23d, 24th, and 26th of last month. The letter has been distributed as a document of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

Afghan Fighter Lands; Pilot Seeks Asylum

BK0607131489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The Ministry of Defense says an Afghan fighter aircraft landed in Peshawar at 1530 hours today. The pilot of the aircraft has sought political asylum.

Further on Defecting Afghan

BK0607144489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1429 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 6 (AFP)—An Afghan war plane Thursday [6 July] landed at Peshawar airport and its pilot sought asylum, official sources here said.

A Defence Ministry announcement said the plane landed at 3.30 pm (1030 GMT). Its pilot has sought political asylum in Pakistan, it said.

It was the first time that an Afghan war plane had landed in this border city, which is also capital of the North West Frontier Province. [passage omitted]

The pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) identified the plane as a Sukhoi SU-22 piloted by Captain Jan Muhammed who said he had flown from the Bagram air base in Kabul.

ANA quoted him as saying that the bomber was given to him with instructions to attack mujahidin positions around Jalalabad. "I took it as a golden opportunity to come to Pakistan and join the mujahidin ranks," he told ANA.

The Kabul regime was having its pilots fly 250-300 sorties daily to bomb guerrilla positions around Jalalabad, while some 300 tanks were participating in the battle for the strategic eastern garrison city, he said.

The captain said "not even 20 percent" of the pilots in the Afghan Air Force were siding with the regime. "That is why most of the bombs do not hit mujahidin bases as they delibrately miss the assigned target," he said.

He believed that "many friends waiting for an opportunity would join the mujahidin in the near future."

ANA reported that the pilot talked to the mujahidin interim government's prime minister, Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf, by telephone and said that the people of Afghanistan expected a victory from the mujahidin.

Few Pilots 'Support' Regime

BK0707025289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The pilot of a Kabul regime fighter aircraft, who landed his aircraft at Peshawar yesterday and sought political asylum in Pakistan, has said that he had flown from Bagram airfield to bomb mujahidin positions in Jalalabad, but had come to Pakistan instead to join the mujahidin. Captain Jan Muhammed told the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY in Peshawar yesterday that the Kabul regime's fighter aircraft make several sorties daily to bomb Jalalabad. He added that 300 Kabul regime tanks are taking part in the fighting. The captain said that not even 20 percent of the Kabul regime pilots sincerely support the communist regime.

2 Afghan Helicopters Land; Crews Seek Asylum

BK0307130989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Two Afghan helicopters entered Pakistan's air space in Baluchistan this morning and landed 15 nautical miles from the border in the Pakistan territory. The crew members of the two helicopters, three majors and one captain, have sought asylum in Pakistan.

More on Pilots' Defection

BK0307141589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1403 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad July 3 (AFP)—Two Afghan pilots sought asylum in Pakistan after landing their Afghan Air Force helicopters in the border town of Qila Abdullah, 30 kilometres (18.6 miles) northwest of Quetta, provincial capital of Pakistani Baluchistan, official and resistance sources said.

The crew surrendered to the local authorities, the sources said.

According to the resistance-run AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP), the pilots brought family members with them although it was not immediately clear how many people were on board the helicopters.

The helicopters are in the custody of the Pakistani border militia force, sources here said.

Resistance sources said the crew has in "secret contact" with the Hezb-e Eslami group of resistance guerrillas led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar.

AIP quoting Hezb-e Eslami sources said the pilots confirmed that mujahidin attacks recently intensified on the southern Qandahar airport where the bulk of the forces defending the second biggest Afghan city have been stationed.

Qandahar airport's wireless system and the radar station were badly destroyed in a rebel rocket attack on Friday [30 June], the two pilots [said].

Afghan Air Force planes are now flying directly from the northern Mazar-e Sharif and the capital Kabul. They carried out 21 sorties in the past three days, they said.

The government forces fearing an imminent assault were "desperately reinforcing" the troops based at the airport, they said. Some 12,000 boxes of ammunition and other weapons including rockets have been flown to Qandahar while government planes have so far provided 11,000 litres of diesel and 9,000 litres of petrol for use by the troops, they said.

Defecting Afghans were generally granted asylum in Pakistan where some three million refugees are sheltered, informed sources said.

7 Killed, 23 Injured in Peshawar Bus Bombing

BK0407112289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] There was a bomb blast in a plying bus in Khyber Bazar in Peshawar this morning. Seven people were killed and 23 injured. The injured were rushed to the Lady Reading Hospital where condition of some of them is stated to be serious. Two shops were also damaged in the explosion. The mini-bus was on its way from the new bus stand to (Hawatabad) township.

Sri Lanka

President Premadasa Justifies Talks With LTTE

BK0507120789 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] President Premedasa has said: We want to achieve several objectives within the coming 6 years. One is to have peace in the country, and thereafter to achieve discipline. The third objective is prosperity for the country. We hope to achieve peace not by arms, threat, or violence, but by discussions, compromise, and consensus. The president was addressing a ceremony held at the prize-giving of the 1989 Gammudawa [village reawakening program] anniversary at Mahiyangana yesterday.

Mr Premadasa said there may be certain sections which do not accept this way of thinking, but we should not be discouraged. We must try our best. Peace can never be achieved through violence. He said that while we constantly talk of peace, a small group talk through weapons. They kill people mercilessly. They kill servicemen, policemen, politicians, the common people, and children and infants. They also spread fear and terror throughout the country.

Today, services have been stopped. It is not for a just cause, nor is it for the purpose of setting right an injustice. The president said they have done this by force of arms and by their threats. The whole transport system is stalled. The employees in these services have informed us that they are keeping away from work not because they have suffered any injustice, but because of threats of death. Already hundreds in the transport sector have been killed mercilessly. Perhaps this threat may be in the other fields also.

What happens if all the services in the country are stopped in this way? Those who stop these things may be thinking that only others will suffer thereby; but it is not so. He said they themselves will have to suffer. The president pointed out that today ships bringing our essential services arrive at harbors daily. If these things are not unloaded, they cannot be distributed. Not one or two, but all will have to face difficulties if they there is short supply of food, clothing, and medicine. Those who draw salaries will not be able to obtain them if they cannot go to their workplaces. The pensioners will not be able to get their pension. He said that these things will affect all.

Mr Premadasa pointed out that even before the start of the Gammudawa anniversary there were threats, suppression, disruption of transport, and such other things. But, he added, the common man did not get discouraged by these things and responded in a big way. He emphasized that his government—which got a mandate from the people—was trying to get sections who have not yet joined the democratic process to do so.

Referring to the ongoing discussions with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], Mr Premadasa pointed out that it was through strength of our genuine and sincere desire to resolve the problems on the basis of justice and fair play that we got them down for talks. The LTTE is, undoubtedly, a very powerful militant group. The government earnestly hopes to find solution to our problem through discussion. He pointed out that the United National Party with all its experience is now transformed into a new party with a new policy and program. That is why a militant group such as the LTTE reposed confidence in us. This is also the reason the president said he appealed to all groups and communities in the country to eschew violence and express their views freely.

He noted that every section of the population should be given representation in Parliament. He reiterated that he was prepared to resolve problems through discussion and exchange of views. All this time we fought with each other; we brought foreign army to suppress the LTTE,

leaving aside our own army. But, he asked, what triumphed ultimately? It was the process of establishing peace through discussions. It is because of this, Mr Premadasa said, that he appealed to all to tell their problems and what they really wanted before resorting to a course of action that will result in a great hardship to all the people.

He emphasized that whatever he discussed and any decision he took would necessarily be a decision conforming to the Constitution. We are a sovereign state and an independent country; therefore, Mr Premadasa stressed, no country or government in this world had the power to dictate to us as to with whom we should have discussions and as to what condition those discussions will be subject to. The sovereignty of the country is vested in the people of Sri Lanka. There are many changes to come. Changes in organization and of person have to be done based on experience. He noted that the United National Party was not prepared to sacrifice the welfare of the people to appease individuals. If we had differences or there was infighting, it could result in making us subservient to a foreign power. Therefore, we must be careful and solve our problems through discussions.

Referring to the Gammudawa movement, the president said it was the program which gives encouragement and strength to those people who try to uplift society.

Government Imposes Censorship on Local Newspapers

BK0507123689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1159 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 5 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Wednesday imposed censorship on local newspapers banning the publication of matters "prejudical to national security," the Information Department said.

The censorship was invoked using sweeping emergency powers and would cover matters related to security forces and their activities, an Information Department spokesman said.

"The censorship is aimed at preventing the publication of newsreports, editorials, cartoons or photographs which may incite people to riot or break the law," the spokesman said.

Army Mobilization Ordered

BK0507165689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has mobilized about 15,000 Armed Forces volunteers to deal with the worsening security situation in the island. The government has also imposed censorship on local newspapers. The new force mobilized today comprises volunteers from the Army, Navy, and the Air Force. They have been asked to report for duty at the nearest security force camp or police station immediately.

The censorship rules will cover matters related to the security forces. The government has banned the publication of matters which are considered prejudicial to national security. This will cover news reports, editorials, cartoons, or photographs which may incite people to riot or break the law. An Information Department spokesman said in Colombo that the censorship would not apply to foreign correspondents. A competent authority has been named to (?check) the copy of local journalists.

Two major steps were announced by Colombo amidst continuing extremist violence in south Sri Lanka. In the latest bout of violence at least 10 people were killed. One of them was the ruling party member of Northcentral Provincial Council. He was shot dead by JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] gunmen in Polonnaruwa this morning. In another incident last night a JVP extremist attacked a UNP [United National Party] provincial councillor in the central Matale District. The councillor managed to escape. In yet another incident extremists shot dead two intelligent officials in the (Hadlok Town) area of Colombo. The officials were on surveillance duty. The assailants came in a car and opened fire on the officials. One of the victims was a police sub-inspector.

Censorship Extended to Foreigners

BK0607051989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 6 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Thursday extended press censorship to include foreign correspondents and banned public meetings with immediate effect, a senior minister announced here.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said all reports of foreign correspondents will have to be submitted to the censor until further notice. The censorship was imposed on local newspapers Wednesday.

"If you act in an irresponsible manner I shall cancel your visas and deport you," Mr Wijeratne said adding that Sri Lankans working for foreign news agencies will be jailed if they break the censorship.

This report was submitted to the censor who did not change it.

"We are doing this because there is an emergency in the country and there is an attempt to overthrow the government. You should know that," the minister told reporters here at a weekly cabinet press briefing.

He said security forces had been given full powers to deal with all types of subversion in the "most ruthless manner" and armed forces have been deployed in full strength.

The government action came as a strike called on June 12 by the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) crippled most government departments, banks and private institutions.

"We will not allow a democratically elected government to be subverted by a handful of gun-toting criminals... Enough is enough. The government is going to meet it head on," he said.

"The government has decided to ban all public meetings, including meetings of trade unions, until further notice to ensure the safety and security of the nation."

He reiterated that the government was still prepared to sit down and talk to the JVP to restore peace in the country.

He said security forces have been given powers to arrest and detain "trouble makers who attempt to destroy order."

The JVP is violently opposed to the government and has stepped up a campaign attacking security personnel and politicians in a bid to seize power. In 1971, the JVP led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

This report has been submitted to the censor who did not change it.

President Firm on Deadline for Indian Pullout

BK0607094489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 6 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa was firm on the July 29 deadline for the withdrawal of the Indian troops from the island, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said here Thursday [6 July]

The seven-nation South Asian heads of state summit schedule to open here in November was off "until the last Indian soldier leaves Sri Lanka," Mr. Wijeratne told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting late Wednesday.

Colombo and New Delhi are at dispute over the presence of some 45,000 Indian troops in the island's northeast in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

Mr. Wijeratne said Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi had asked for more time to take back his troops in his latest message to Mr. Premadasa.

"Mr. Gandhi does not say he will not take back his troops. He has only said that he wants extra time... If they want to sit down and talk, they will have to send someone to talk to the president," he said.

Mr. Wijeratne said Colombo will not participate in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which includes, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan while the Indian troops remained in Sri Lanka.

A SAARC foreign ministers' conference in Islamabad was put off last week as Colombo boycotted the meet to protest India's refusal to withdraw its troops.

Mr. Wijeratne said that Mr. Gandhi had sought clarifications on a request by Mr. Premadasa that Indian troops observe a ceasefire with Tamil guerrillas currently holding peace talks with Colombo.

The talks between the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the government are the first excluding India, which has acted as a mediator in the Sri Lankan ethnic conflict since 1983.

Mr. Premadasa, a known critic of the 1987 peace accord, has ordered Indian troops to be confined to their barracks if they cannot leave by July 29, the second anniversary of the peace accord between the two countries.

Mr. Wijeratne denied press reports that he was visiting New Delhi to negotiate a time frame for the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force. "I have no plans to visit India," he said.

Armed Forces Given Shoot-on-Sight, Other Powers

BK0607124589 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] A government communique states that the time has come to take meaningful steps to restore law and order in the country. The government has decided to deal with the crisis arising from deliberate acts of violence, sabotage, and disruption caused by the troublemakers with a view of creating chaos in the country. The government has, therefore, introduced with immediate effect a general mobilization of the armed services to strengthen and assist the civil administration in maintain essential services, law and order.

District coordinating officers from the armed forces have been appointed to take charge of their respective districts and to coordinate all activity. The armed forces will be deployed in full strength with immediate effect to protect all law-abiding citizens and property. They will have full powers to arrest, detain, and deal with inciters including trade union officials, strikers, and all troublemakers attempting to disrupt normal life.

They will shoot-on-sight or arrest and detain any person engaged in sabotage or inciting or threatening workers to strike and cause damage to public or property. Those attempting to put up posters, placards, or any such thing with a view to threaten the public in any form will be deal with in the same manner.

The armed services will also have the power to serve detention orders on those continuing to remain on strike illegally.

Minister on Premadasa, Gandhi Note Exchanges

BK0607125589 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] is a subject that is being negotiated and it is hoped that we will be able arrive at a decision as early as possible. State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne yesterday told the House. The minister was answering an adjournment question by the opposition Sri Lankan Freedom Party [SLFP] member, Colombo, C.B. Guneratne.

Earlier, answering a query by SLFP member, (Niman) Siripala de Silva, on the exchange of messages between the president and the Indian premier, the minister said that several such notes have been exchanged but that in view of the sensitive nature of the subject it was prudent not to discuss the matter at this stage.

ENDLF Announces Independent Tamil State

BK0707004489 Hong Kong AFP in English 2221 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 6 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil militant group has unilaterally declared an independent state in the island nation, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported here Thursday [6 July].

The Eelam National Democratic Liberation (ENDLF) said in a statement signed by two group leaders that it had set up a Tamil state. The signatories included K. Srinivasan, member of the Mullaitivu Provincial Council of the ENDLF.

The ENDLF also sought recognition of the so-called independent state by the world community, the Indian news agency said. It pleaded for "continuous protection from mother India in our fight against Sinhala imperialism."

The ENDLF is one of the five Tamil militant groups which have accepted a 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord aimed at ending separatist violence in Sri Lanka's north and east.

These groups have since surrendered weapons, unlike the sixth and most powerful faction, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The LTTE has since been fighting Indian peace-keeping forces dispatched by New Delhi to help implement the peace pact.

ENDLF Denies Announcement

BK0707073089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0721 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 7 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil group said Friday [7 July] that its leadership was not behind a move by one of its members unilaterally declaring an "independent" Tamil homeland called Eelam.

A spokesman for the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) said the announcement Thursday by ENDLF member K. Srinivasan "is not the opinion our of leadership."

"It is his personal opinion," an ENDLF spokesman said by telephone from the southern Indian port city of Madras, where almost all Sri Lankan Tamil groups and political parties maintain offices.

The spokesman gave no further details.

Mr. Srinivasan, a member of Sri Lanka's North-eastern Provincial Council, issued a statement here Thursday unilaterally declaring an "independent" Eelam, comprising the island's Tamil-populated north-east.

Mr. Srinivasan also sought international recognition for Eelam.

There was no official comment to the Eelam announcement from the Indian Government, which has some 45,000 troops in Sri Lanka's north-east.

The ENDLF is one of the five major Tamil militant groups which accepted a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord that sought to end an Eelam campaign and devolve limited autonomy to the island's minority Tamil community.

Pro-India Tamil groups controlling Sri Lanka's North-eastern Provincial Council have threatened to renew their separatist campaign if Colombo dissolves the regional administration set up in November.

Members of the ENDLF leadership visited New Delhi some two months ago and met senior Indian officials, including Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant.

Tamil Party Alleges Effort To Drive Out Indians

BK0107160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] The EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Front] has alleged that the disruptive forces in Jaffna District are utilizing students as pawns for their subversive activities. This is being done to destabilize the democratically elected Northeastern Province government and force the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] to withdraw from Sri Lanka before establishing permanent peace in the region. In a statement issued in Jaffna today, the EPRLF appealed to students and educationists to fight disruptive forces and help in establishing permanent peace in the region.